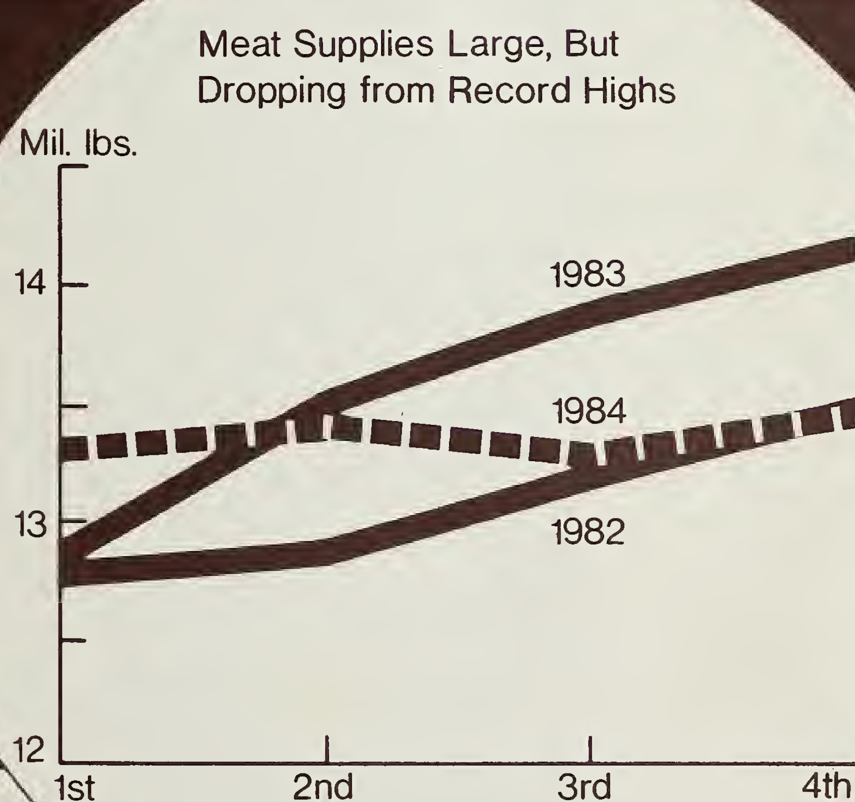
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Economic
Research
Service

LPS-10
May 1984

# Livestock and Poultry

## Outlook and Situation Report



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Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board. Summary released on May 3, 1984. The next summary of the **Livestock and Poultry Outlook and Situation** is scheduled for release on July 5, 1984. Summaries of Outlook and Situation reports are available on several electronic information systems. For details, call (402) 472-1892; (301) 588-1572; or (301) 982-6500. Full reports, including tables, are provided by the system on (402) 472-1892.

The present forecasts will be updated in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates scheduled for release on May 10 and June 12 and 22, 1984.

The **Livestock and Poultry Outlook and Situation** is published 6 times a year. Annual subscription: $15.00 U.S., $18.75 foreign. Order from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 20402. Make checks payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

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# Summary


**Continued inventory adjustments by livestock and poultry producers** will affect red meat supplies during much of 1984-85. Total meat production, particularly red meat, has been especially large since mid-1983. Both hog and cattle producers reduced breeding inventories in 1983 in reaction to higher feed costs, drought-reduced forage conditions, and poor feeding margins. Adjustments have been particularly sharp in the North Central region where corn is the primary grain source. Farm corn prices averaged 49 and 24 percent above a year earlier in the fall and winter quarters of 1983/84. Reduced forage supplies and an unusually rough winter have forced larger numbers of beef cows to be culled.

**On March 1, farmers in 10 major hog producing states,** located mainly in the Corn Belt, had reduced their breeding herds 10 percent from a year earlier. This was the lowest March inventory since the data series began in 1973. The number of cattle on feed in the 13 major feeding States on April 1 was 2 percent larger than a year earlier. Large numbers of cattle were forced off pastures during the winter and placed on feed in areas where wheat and other lower-priced feed grains could be substituted for corn.

**Cattle on feed inventories were all well below a year earlier** in the important corn feeding States, but well above a year ago in major feeding States outside the Corn Belt. The number of cattle on feed in Iowa on April 1 was the smallest for this date since 1950, while the number in Texas was the largest since 1974. The wheat harvest this spring will bolster feed supplies in the Plains and Western States, supporting present higher feeding levels. However, Corn Belt producers are not likely to begin expanding hog breeding inventories or placing more cattle on feed until the corn crop is harvested this fall.

**Poultry and egg producers,** dealing with shorter biological cycles, reduced output in second-half 1983 in response to higher feed costs, poor returns and expected larger red meat supplies. Broiler producers are now reacting to improved returns, and early prospects of lower grain prices and smaller red meat supplies in second-half 1984. Broiler production was near year-earlier levels from mid-1983 through early 1984, but may rise 1 percent this spring and 3 to 6 percent in second-half 1984. Egg output in 1983 was 2 percent below a year earlier and is expected to be 1 to 2 percent lower through summer. Avian influenza has also contributed to the decline. Egg production is not expected to rise above last year's level until fall.

**Lower total meat supplies this fall,** plus improved consumer purchasing power, probably will result in stronger meat prices in second-half 1984. Passed back to producers, the stronger prices will encourage future production once feed supplies increase and grain prices decline. Although poultry output is expected to rise this year, pork and beef production are likely to decline.

**Table 1—Livestock, poultry, and egg production and prices**
**(All percent changes shown are from a year earlier.)**

| Item | 1983 | | | | 1984 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | II | III | IV | Annual | I[1] | II[2] | III[2] | IV[2] | Annual[2] |
| | | | | | *Million lbs* | | | | |
| PRODUCTION | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 5,556 | 6,015 | 5,962 | 23,060 | 5,709 | 5,650 | 5,775 | 5,550 | 22,684 |
| % change | +4 | +5 | +2 | +3 | +3 | +2 | −4 | −7 | −2 |
| Pork | 3,771 | 3,657 | 4,206 | 15,117 | 3,737 | 3,600 | 3,175 | 3,725 | 14,237 |
| % change | +6 | +13 | +16 | +7 | +7 | −5 | −13 | −11 | −6 |
| Lamb & mutton | 89 | 94 | 91 | 367 | 98 | 87 | 83 | 85 | 353 |
| % change | +5 | +7 | −2 | +3 | +5 | −2 | −12 | −7 | −4 |
| Veal | 98 | 110 | 117 | 428 | 116 | 90 | 95 | 105 | 406 |
| % change | −1 | +3 | +6 | +1 | +13 | −9 | −14 | −10 | −5 |
| Total red meat | 9,514 | 9,876 | 10,376 | 38,972 | 9,660 | 9,427 | 9,128 | 9,465 | 37,680 |
| % change | +5 | +8 | +7 | +5 | +5 | −1 | −8 | −9 | −3 |
| Broilers[3] | 3,276 | 3,135 | 2,917 | 12,389 | 3,075 | 3,300 | 3,250 | 3,080 | 12,705 |
| % change | +5 | 0 | 0 | +3 | 0 | +1 | +4 | +6 | +3 |
| Turkeys[3] | 582 | 760 | 759 | 2,563 | 431 | 590 | 760 | 790 | 2,571 |
| % change | +10 | 0 | 0 | +4 | −7 | +1 | 0 | +4 | 0 |
| Total poultry[4] | 3,989 | 4,015 | 3,781 | 15,453 | 3,619 | 4,010 | 4,125 | 3,980 | 15,734 |
| % change | +5 | 0 | −1 | +3 | −1 | +1 | +3 | +5 | +2 |
| Total red meat & poultry | 13,503 | 13,891 | 14,157 | 54,425 | 13,279 | 13,437 | 13,253 | 13,445 | 53,414 |
| % change | +5 | +5 | +5 | +4 | +3 | 0 | −5 | −5 | −2 |
| | | | | | *Million dozen* | | | | |
| Eggs | 1,405 | 1,399 | 1,418 | 5,655 | 1,401 | 1,375 | 1,385 | 1,440 | 5,600 |
| % change | −2 | −3 | −4 | −2 | −2 | −2 | −1 | +2 | −1 |
| PRICES | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | *Dollars per cwt* | | | | |
| Choice steers, Omaha, 900-1100 lb | 67.04 | 60.89 | 60.61 | 62.52 | 67.58 | 66-69 | 65-71 | 63-69 | 65-69 |
| Barrows & gilts, 7 mkts | 46.74 | 46.90 | 42.18 | 47.71 | 47.68 | 50-53 | 57-63 | 53-59 | 52-56 |
| Slaugh. lambs, Ch., San Ang. | 61.00 | 50.98 | 57.63 | 57.63 | 59.29 | 61-64 | 54-60 | 55-61 | 57-61 |
| | | | | | *Cents per lb* | | | | |
| Broilers, 9-city avg.[5] | [8]46.5 | 53.9 | 55.2 | (9) | 61.8 | 57-60 | 56-62 | 52-58 | 57-61 |
| Turkeys, NY[6] | 57.3 | 60.3 | 69.4 | 60.5 | 67.7 | 67-70 | 66-72 | 69-75 | 67-71 |
| | | | | | *Cents per doz* | | | | |
| Eggs New York[7] | 69.1 | 74.4 | 91.3 | 75.2 | 103.4 | 86-90 | 79-85 | 77-83 | 86-90 |

[1]Preliminary. [2]Forecast. [3]Federally inspected. [4]Includes broilers, turkeys, and mature chickens. [5]Wholesale weighted average. [6]Wholesale, 8- to 16-pound young hens. [7]Cartoned, consumer Grade A large, sales to volume buyers. [8]The 9-city price has been discontinued; starting with second-quarter 1983, the broiler price is the new 12-city average. [9]Quarterly data not comparable to compute average.

## FACTORS AFFECTING LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

### Consumer Purchasing Power Rises

Consumer purchasing power continues to improve. Disposable personal income, per person in current dollars, in 1980 and 1981 increased 9 to 10 percent a year; however, high inflation rates held down consumer purchasing power. In 1982 and early 1983, inflation rates declined but nominal incomes were held down by the recession. In 1980 and 1982, disposable personal incomes per person in real dollars declined, and in 1981, they rose about 2 percent.

In 1984, disposable personal incomes in current dollars may rise 9 to 10 percent—about the same nominal rates as in the early 1980's. However, because of lower inflation rates, personal incomes in real dollars are expected to increase 4 to 5 percent. Real as well as nominal incomes have been rising and consequently, so have consumer purchasing power and confidence.

Growth in the national economy continued strong during first-quarter 1984. Real Gross National Product rose at an 8.3-percent annualized rate. Growth was unusually strong in January and February, due to large increases in consumer spending, housing construction, and a rapid rebuilding of business inventories. However, retail sales, housing starts, and industrial production slowed in March. The strong, but slower growth expected for the remainder of the year should continue to hold down the inflation rate.

Meat prices have already risen and further increases are expected through early summer as total meat supplies decline both seasonally and compared with the large 1983 levels. Prices are likely to stabilize near these higher levels in second-half 1984 as the recent rapid economic growth slows, consumers react to higher retail meat prices, and seasonally rising meat supplies by late summer hold down further price advances. Meat prices in the second half will still be sharply higher than the low levels recorded a year earlier.

### Grain Stocks Continue To Decline; Prices Likely Near Peak

Feed grain stocks continued well below year-earlier levels this winter due to strong export demand and expanded meat production. However, breeding inventories have already been pulled down and meat production will decline from a year ago beginning in midspring. The reductions by livestock producers in the North Central region have been in sharp contrast to that of producers with alternative grains available. Wheat feeding has been the largest since 1943 and will likely remain large at least until the corn crop is harvested this fall. Harvest of the winter wheat crop later this spring and the barley and oat crops this summer will help offset the effect of sharply reduced corn stocks. Soybean meal supplies for this year have been reduced due to lower production estimates. Supplies are down, but demand is also expected to decline.

Feed grain prices, particularly corn, have risen sharply since mid-February as corn stocks continued to decline. The price of corn rose about 45 cents a bushel from mid-February through early April. Corn prices at the farm are expected to average \$3.20 to \$3.30 a bushel this crop year compared with \$2.68 in 1982/83. Prices are expected to peak this spring and then moderate through fall as competing grains are harvested and the new crop develops. Wheat prices continue to average below levels of the last 2 years, and compared with corn, are favorable in most areas. Lower yearend soybean meal stocks may cause prices to average \$195 to \$215 a ton, moderately above the \$187.20 average in 1982/83.

### Forage Supplies Extremely Poor

Cool, wet, weather in most areas in March and April continued to stress livestock and require additional supplemental feeding. An almost unrelenting series of snow storms from late fall through late April affected range livestock in the Rocky Mountain and North Central regions. At the same time, Texas, particularly western Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, and Montana are dry, reducing grazing this spring.

Pasture and range feed conditions on April 1 were poor to fair as they typically are this time of year. However, conditions averaged 1 point above the 1973-82 average for this date, but 10 points below a year ago. Prospects for late spring grazing in most areas appear very favorable, as they did a year ago, due to the abundant moisture conditions. However, critically short forage stocks must be rebuilt this year to avoid further beef herd reductions. Conditions in much of the Southwest have not improved, with forage conditions in Texas and New Mexico rated very poor.

Hay prices in April remained nearly \$10 a ton above a year ago. Prices rose modestly from March to April despite the approaching spring grazing season, as supplemental feeding remained a necessity in many areas in late April.

## POULTRY AND EGGS

### Eggs

Egg production this spring and summer may be below 1983 levels, principally because of a reduced rate of lay. Reduced supplies are expected to keep egg prices stronger than last year through the fall.

#### *Egg Production To Remain Below Last Year*

During January-March 1984, egg production was down 2 percent from the 1,433 million dozen produced in first-quarter 1983. The decline resulted from a smaller number of layers during most of the period and a reduced rate of lay from last year. Strong egg prices encouraged producers to try to increase production. Since the only course open was to hold back old hens, the rate of lay declined both because the hens were older and because of the colder winter this year. Egg production would have been even lower had there not been an extra day due to leap year.

Layer numbers on April 1 were 1 percent above last year and are expected to stay near a year ago until fourth-

quarter 1984. The hatch of replacement layers has been below year-earlier levels until recently. During first-quarter 1984, replacement pullets were down 14 percent from 1983 levels. In the second quarter, replacements will be down 4 percent from 1983, but third-quarter replacements will be up almost 2 percent. However, the large number of older hens that may be sold as additional replacements become available are expected to cause egg production to remain below last year until the fourth quarter.

### *Egg Prices To Weaken*

During first-quarter 1984, prices of cartoned Grade A large eggs delivered store-door in New York averaged $1.03 per dozen, up sharply from 66 cents last year. Prices were strong because of the strong general economy and reduced supplies of eggs, especially in the beginning of the quarter when cold weather and avian influenza reduced output.

Prices for eggs remained strong in early April as traders anticipated additional movement for Easter. With increased employment, more eggs were expected to be needed, but supplies likely were near last year or a little below. New York egg prices dropped sharply after Easter but still averaged $1.04 per dozen during April, up from 68 cents last year. Unless producers sell more old hens than expected after Easter, reducing supplies more than anticipated, second-quarter prices are likely to average 86 to 90 cents per dozen, up from 69 cents last year. During third-quarter 1984, prices for eggs in New York may average 5 to 11 cents per dozen above the 74-cent average for 1983, if supplies are slightly less than a year ago.

### *Stocks at Low Levels*

On January 1, 1984, cold storage stocks of frozen products and shell eggs totaled 9 million dozen shell equivalent, down sharply from 20 million in 1983. On April 1, stocks were 10 million dozen, down from 18 million in 1983. Stocks of shell eggs were up from last year as eggs were being held for Easter. Short supplies and high prices for eggs have discouraged the holding of stocks.

### *Breaking Use About Steady*

In 1983, eggs broken under Federal inspection totaled 732 million dozen, nearly the same as the 733 million

**Table 3—Egg-type chick hatchery operations**

| Month | Hatch | | | Eggs in incubator first of month | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | *Thousands* | | | *Percent* | | |
| January | 36,652 | 32,630 | 36,805 | 98 | 86 | 112 |
| February | 36,413 | 32,956 | 37,699 | 103 | 86 | 112 |
| March | 44,220 | 39,281 | 45,136 | 99 | 81 | 125 |
| April | 46,626 | 36,663 | | 94 | 79 | 127 |
| May | 47,342 | 38,330 | | 102 | 76 | |
| June | 39,424 | 37,487 | | 98 | 91 | |
| July | 35,405 | 30,530 | | 107 | 86 | |
| August | 33,455 | 30,929 | | 98 | 97 | |
| September | 31,226 | 31,796 | | 95 | 105 | |
| October | 32,345 | 32,343 | | 95 | 100 | |
| November | 30,172 | 29,639 | | 90 | 98 | |
| December | 31,140 | 34,351 | | 90 | 112 | |

**Table 2—Layers on farms and eggs produced**

| Quarters | Number of layers | | Eggs per layer | | Eggs produced | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | *Million* | | *Number* | | *Million dozen* | |
| I | 282 | 277 | 61.1 | 60.6 | 1,432.9 | 1,401.2 |
| II | 273 | | 61.9 | | 1,405.2 | |
| III | 271 | | 62.1 | | 1,399.2 | |
| IV | 276 | | 61.6 | | 1,418.0 | |
| Annual | 276 | | 246.7 | | 5,655.3 | |

**Table 4—Force moltings and light-type hen slaughter, 1982-84**

| Month | Forced molt layers[1] | | | | | | Light-type hens slaughtered under Federal inspection[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Being molted | | | Molt completed | | | | | |
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | *Percent* | | | | | | *Thousand* | | |
| January | 3.2 | | 3.4 | 19.8 | | 24.1 | 14,416 | 15,717 | 10,377 |
| February | 4.3 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 18.8 | 18.4 | 22.9 | 12,727 | 15,924 | 9,687 |
| March | 3.6 | 4.3 | 5.4 | 18.6 | 18.7 | 22.4 | 14,554 | 16,110 | |
| April | | 4.0 | 4.4 | | 17.7 | 22.8 | 16,732 | 14,794 | |
| May | | 5.4 | | | 17.2 | | 13,828 | 9,784 | |
| June | 6.3 | 5.7 | | 19.2 | 19.4 | | 14,325 | 11,210 | |
| July | | 5.2 | | | 20.4 | | 11,517 | 10,829 | |
| August | | 4.6 | | | 22.1 | | 14,111 | 11,820 | |
| September | 5.5 | 4.7 | | 20.5 | 23.0 | | 11,960 | 11,384 | |
| October | | 5.0 | | | 23.6 | | 11,797 | 10,139 | |
| November | | 4.6 | | | 22.4 | | 12,990 | 9,139 | |
| December | 3.3 | 2.3 | | 18.2 | 24.9 | | 16,101 | 10,080 | |

[1]Percent of hens and pullets of laying age in 17 selected States. [2]Revisions include data from late reports or other corrections developed by the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

broken in 1982. Short supplies and higher prices caused breaking use to decline 2 percent in the fourth quarter, but this reduction was offset by first-half use. The lower ending inventory suggests that the use of egg products was higher in 1983 than in 1982. The improvement in the economy, plus declining unemployment, has likely meant additional demand for processed items that would use eggs broken commercially.

In first-quarter 1984, 179 million dozen eggs were broken, up from 175 million in 1983. Eggs going to breakers rose in February from a year ago as supplies increased, partly from larger imports, and prices declined. The number of eggs broken during March was up. With the economy remaining strong, demand for egg products should also remain strong during 1984. The number of eggs broken commercially should increase in second-quarter 1984 as egg supplies increase and prices slip. Cold storage stocks of egg products may be partially rebuilt during the third and fourth quarters as eggs become more plentiful.

**Table 7—U.S. egg exports to major importers, January-March 1983-1984[1]**

| Country or area | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand dozen* | |
| Japan | 11,359 | 4,426 |
| Canada | 2,586 | 3,517 |
| Trinidad-Tobago | 865 | 725 |
| Jamaica | 645 | 624 |
| Hong Kong | 2,416 | 574 |
| Netherlands Antilles | 177 | 169 |
| Suriname | 169 | 161 |
| United Kingdom | 205 | 153 |
| Barbados | 83 | 152 |
| Trust Terr. of Pacific Is. | 68 | 148 |
| Switzerland | 375 | 129 |
| Leeward-Windward Is. | 155 | 124 |
| Dominican Republic | 174 | 108 |
| Bermuda | 93 | 107 |
| Federal Rep of Germany | 685 | 95 |
| Other | 2,859 | 624 |
| Total | 22,912 | 11,836 |

[1]Shell and shell equivalent of egg products.

**Table 5—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under Federal inspection, 1982-84**

| Period[1] | Shell eggs broken | Egg products produced[2] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Liquid[3] | Frozen | Dried |
| | *Thou. doz* | *Thou. lbs* | *Thou. lbs* | *Thou. lbs* |
| 1982 | | | | |
| Jan. 24 - Feb. 20 | 47,713 | 31,062 | 22,938 | 5,012 |
| Feb. 21 - Mar. 20 | 51,265 | 31,360 | 25,890 | 5,074 |
| Mar. 21 - Apr. 17 | 53,773 | 31,880 | 24,690 | 5,816 |
| Apr. 18 - May 15 | 59,705 | 39,064 | 28,367 | 6,415 |
| May 16 - June 12 | 64,889 | 40,072 | 29,003 | 7,975 |
| June 13 - July 10 | 60,166 | 37,764 | 27,298 | 6,540 |
| July 11 - Aug. 7 | 65,321 | 37,426 | 29,982 | 7,331 |
| Aug. 8 - Sept. 4 | 60,789 | 39,110 | 26,073 | 6,550 |
| Sept. 5 - Sept. 30 | 56,675 | 36,468 | 24,278 | 5,423 |
| Oct. 1 - Oct. 31 | 60,787 | 38,114 | 28,334 | 6,477 |
| November | 57,867 | 36,841 | 24,849 | 6,747 |
| December | 53,369 | 35,499 | 23,072 | 6,228 |
| 1983 | | | | |
| January | 57,526 | 38,965 | 23,822 | 6,369 |
| February | 56,439 | 35,217 | 22,792 | 5,801 |
| March | 61,229 | 40,626 | 25,564 | 6,368 |
| April | 52,493 | 37,566 | 22,516 | 5,753 |
| May | 61,369 | 42,366 | 25,310 | 7,738 |
| June | 71,820 | 47,408 | 30,099 | 10,476 |
| July | 64,019 | 41,293 | 26,139 | 9,814 |
| August | 72,163 | 51,671 | 26,341 | 9,038 |
| September | 66,689 | 48,597 | 26,064 | 6,421 |
| October | 64,397 | 45,201 | 26,649 | 6,830 |
| November | 55,635 | 38,216 | 24,962 | 5,994 |
| December | 48,142 | 33,472 | 23,299 | 4,974 |
| 1984 | | | | |
| January | 52,102 | 40,207 | 22,669 | 4,522 |
| February | 62,797 | 45,962 | 27,413 | 6,878 |
| March | 64,036 | 46,404 | 30,206 | 7,022 |

[1]The reporting period was changed in November 1982 from a 4-week interval to a calendar month basis. [2]Includes ingredients added. [3]Liquid egg products produced for immediate consumption and for processing.

**Table 9—Total eggs: Supply and utilization by quarters, 1982-84**

| Year | Supply | | | | | Utilization | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Domestic disappearance | | | |
| | Production | Imports[1] | Beginning stocks[1] | Total supply | Ending stocks[1] | Exports and shipments[1] | Eggs used for hatching | Military[1] | Civilian Total | Civilian Per capita |
| | *Million dozen* | | | | | | | | | *Number[2]* |
| 1982[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 1,441.6 | .5 | 17.5 | 1,445.2 | 14.4 | 53.1 | 128.4 | 5.9 | 1,257.7 | 65.9 |
| II | 1,440.7 | .3 | 14.4 | 1,437.1 | 18.2 | 36.9 | 132.4 | 4.8 | 1,263.0 | 66.0 |
| III | 1,436.9 | 1.6 | 18.2 | 1,434.4 | 22.3 | 37.6 | 120.3 | 6.4 | 1,270.1 | 66.2 |
| IV | 1,479.1 | .1 | 22.3 | 1,481.2 | 20.3 | 57.3 | 124.4 | 5.3 | 1,294.3 | 67.3 |
| Year | 5,798.2 | 2.5 | 17.5 | 5,797.9 | 20.3 | 184.9 | 505.5 | 22.4 | 5,085.1 | 265.4 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 1,432.9 | 5.0 | 20.3 | 1,440.2 | 18.1 | 30.2 | 128.4 | 6.3 | 1,274.1 | 66.2 |
| II | 1,405.2 | 2.9 | 18.1 | 1,408.7 | 17.4 | 29.2 | 129.2 | 6.9 | 1,243.2 | 64.4 |
| III | 1,399.2 | 7.4 | 17.4 | 1,410.7 | 13.2 | 26.7 | 120.1 | 6.5 | 1,258.7 | 64.9 |
| IV | 1,418.0 | 8.2 | 13.2 | 1,430.7 | 17.6 | 26.4 | 122.4 | 5.4 | 1,276.7 | 65.7 |
| Year | 5,655.3 | 23.4 | 20.3 | 5,690.2 | 17.6 | 112.4 | 500.1 | 25.1 | 5,052.8 | 261.2 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | |

[1]Shell eggs and the approximate shell-egg equivalent of egg product. [2]Calculated from unrounded data. [3]Preliminary.

**Table 6—Egg prices and price spreads, 1983-84**

| Item | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Cents per dozen | | | | | | |
| Farm price[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 46.5 | 48.9 | 51.6 | 51.2 | 55.0 | 53.4 | 51.8 | 57.8 | 60.6 | 63.7 | 72.4 | 79.3 | 57.7 |
| 1984 | 92.8 | 88.8 | 73.5 | 87.4 | | | | | | | | | |
| New York (cartoned)[2] Grade A, large | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 62.7 | 65.7 | 69.1 | 67.6 | 69.9 | 69.7 | 68.2 | 76.5 | 78.6 | 80.2 | 91.8 | 101.9 | 75.2 |
| 1984 | 115.0 | 104.0 | 91.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4-region average, Grade A, large Retail price | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 85.2 | 82.7 | 86.5 | 84.8 | 89.6 | 85.2 | 88.2 | 91.8 | 96.2 | 98.1 | 102.3 | 114.1 | 92.1 |
| 1984 | 130.8 | 133.2 | 117.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Price spreads Farm-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 41.8 | 36.1 | 35.0 | 35.3 | 35.7 | 32.3 | 37.2 | 32.0 | 34.1 | 34.1 | 25.7 | 26.9 | 33.9 |
| 1984 | 32.8 | 46.9 | 43.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm-to-retailer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 21.2 | 18.9 | 18.2 | 19.0 | 17.7 | 16.2 | 18.9 | 17.4 | 17.2 | 17.3 | 14.1 | 14.0 | 17.5 |
| 1984 | 14.9 | 18.8 | 18.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 20.6 | 17.2 | 16.8 | 16.3 | 18.0 | 16.1 | 18.3 | 14.6 | 16.9 | 16.8 | 11.6 | 12.9 | 16.3 |
| 1984 | 17.9 | 28.1 | 25.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 1967=100 | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 172.9 | 169.3 | 175.0 | 174.9 | 181.8 | 173.8 | 177.9 | 183.7 | 193.3 | 200.1 | 208.2 | 234.0 | 187.1 |
| 1984 | 266.5 | 270.3 | 237.2 | | | | | | | | | | |

[1]Market (table) eggs including eggs sold retail by the producer; data not available prior to 1982. [2]Price to volume buyers.

**Table 8—Shell eggs: Supply and utilization, 1982-84[1]**

| Year | Stock change | Production | Hatching use | Eggs broken | Imports | Total supply | Exports and shipments | Domestic disappearance | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Military | Civilian | |
| | | | | | | | | | Total | Per capita |
| | | | | | Million dozen | | | | | Number |
| 1982[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | −.1 | 1,441.6 | 128.4 | 160.9 | .5 | 1,152.6 | 29.2 | 5.4 | 1,118.0 | 58.6 |
| II | .2 | 1,440.7 | 132.4 | 196.0 | .2 | 1,112.8 | 16.5 | 4.6 | 1,091.8 | 57.1 |
| III | .1 | 1,436.9 | 120.3 | 203.8 | 1.5 | 1,114.4 | 22.8 | 5.8 | 1,085.8 | 56.6 |
| IV | −.2 | 1,479.1 | 124.4 | 172.0 | .1 | 1,182.6 | 42.6 | 4.8 | 1,135.3 | 59.0 |
| Year | 0 | 5,798.2 | 505.5 | 732.7 | 2.3 | 4,562.4 | 111.1 | 20.5 | 4,430.8 | 231.2 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | .5 | 1,432.9 | 128.4 | 175.2 | 5.0 | 1,134.8 | 15.5 | 5.5 | 1,113.8 | 57.8 |
| II | −.8 | 1,405.2 | 129.2 | 185.7 | 2.8 | 1,092.4 | 13.3 | 6.3 | 1,072.7 | 55.5 |
| III | .6 | 1,399.2 | 120.1 | 202.9 | 7.1 | 1,083.8 | 12.4 | 5.9 | 1,065.5 | 55.0 |
| IV | .4 | 1,418.6 | 122.4 | 168.2 | 7.4 | 1,135.8 | 13.1 | 5.0 | 1,117.6 | 57.6 |
| Year | .6 | 5,655.8 | 500.0 | 731.9 | 22.2 | 4,446.8 | 54.3 | 22.8 | 4,369.8 | 225.9 |
| 1984[2] | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | | | |

[1]Totals may not add due to rounding. [2]Preliminary.

## Broilers

Broiler production is expected to increase as producers respond to strong prices in early 1984 and expected cutbacks in red meats during the second half. The strong economy is expected to keep broiler prices above year-earlier averages through most the year.

### Production To Increase

During January-March 1984, broiler meat production in federally inspected plants totaled 3,075 million pounds, about the same as the 3,061 million produced in 1983. The number of birds slaughtered was 1 percent below last year, but the birds were heavier.

Strong prices for broilers resulted in favorable returns during the first quarter of 1984. Prospects for a continued strong economy and reduced supplies of red meats are encouraging broiler producers to expand production. However, the poor returns of the past few years caused producers to reduce pullet chick placements in the hatchery supply flock. The size of the hatchery supply flock is not known, but cumulative pullet placements 7 to 14 months earlier can be used as an indication of the size of the hatchery supply flock. Cumulative placements peaked in November 1981 at 29.4 million head. Cumulative placements in April 1984 equaled 25.2 million head and will slip to 24.6 million in September. While some expansion in output will be possible if producers hold old hens a little longer, large increases in output are not likely because of limited supplies of hatching eggs.

In early April, broiler producers were setting record numbers of hatching eggs in spite of reduced cumulative pullet placements. These birds will add more output late in the second quarter. Slaughter for all of the second quarter is expected to be 1 to 2 percent above the 3,276 million pounds produced in 1983.

Third-quarter production is likely to be down slightly from second-quarter output. However, the year-to-year change in output for third-quarter 1984 may be 3 to 4 percent above 1983. Producers might be tempted to increase output more than this, but hatching eggs are expected to be the limiting factor.

### Prices To Remain Strong

During first-quarter 1984, composite prices of broilers in the 12 cities averaged 62 cents per pound, up from 43 cents in the 9 cities in 1983. Prices have been strong this year because of the stronger general economy and reduced unemployment rates in combination with slightly fewer birds moving to slaughter. Reports of avian influenza and bird eradication may have suggested tighter supplies, further strengthening prices.

During the second and third quarters of 1984, broiler prices are likely to remain strong because of the improved economy and reduced supplies of red meat. Prices in the 12 cities during April-June 1984 may average 57 to 60 cents per pound, up from 46 cents last year. Even with slightly smaller supplies expected in the third quarter, prices probably will slip a little from second-quarter levels, but still average 56 to 62 cents per pound, 2 to 8 cents above third-quarter 1983.

### Broiler Production Hits Record in 1983

The number of broilers produced in the 1983 marketing year (December 1, 1982-November 30, 1983) was a record 4.18 billion, 1 percent above 1982. The 19 major producing States accounted for 4.04 billion birds, also up 1 percent.

The top three broiler States in both 1983 and 1982—Arkansas, Georgia, and Alabama—showed percentage increases of 1, 3, and 5 percent, respectively. These three States together accounted for 43 percent of production. South Carolina and West Virginia, ranking 14th and 15th respectively, had the largest year-over-year gain of 9 percent. In 11 of the 19 major States, production remained the same or declined from 1982.

**Table 10—Broiler chicks hatched and pullet chicks placed in hatchery supply flocks**

| Month | Broiler-type chicks | | | Pullet chicks placed in broiler hatchery supply flocks | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Monthly placements | | | Cumulative placements 7-14 months earlier* | | |
| | 1982 | 1983* | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | | *Million* | | | *Thousands* | | | *Thousands* | |
| January | 372,503 | 382,604 | 370,024 | 3,379 | 3,169 | 3,202 | 28,692 | 27,265 | 26,428 |
| February | 336,484 | 348,287 | 356,386 | 3,152 | 3,310 | 2,977 | 28,432 | 27,179 | 25,349 |
| March | 390,918 | 399,748 | 397,942 | 3,676 | 3,299 | 3,451 | 27,499 | 26,875 | 25,441 |
| April | 385,801 | 388,781 | | 3,640 | 3,143 | | 27,565 | 26,359 | 25,169 |
| May | 402,754 | 395,460 | | 3,698 | 3,541 | | 27,503 | 26,483 | 24,873 |
| June | 385,164 | 382,189 | | 2,934 | 3,147 | | 26,462 | 26,371 | 24,700 |
| July | 381,979 | 377,988 | | 3,035 | 2,485 | | 26,598 | 25,986 | 25,147 |
| August | 377,760 | 372,246 | | 3,361 | 3,347 | | 26,847 | 25,457 | 24,808 |
| September | 348,090 | 343,634 | | 2,863 | 2,897 | | 26,689 | 25,833 | 24,638 |
| October | 344,579 | 345,253 | | 3,276 | 3,014 | | 27,274 | 26,097 | 25,604 |
| November | 345,602 | 335,928 | | 3,564 | 3,126 | | 27,752 | 25,879 | |
| December | 373,949 | 374,881 | | 3,255 | 3,590 | | 27,861 | 26,557 | |

* = Revised.

## Table 11—Broilers: Eggs set and chicks placed weekly in 19 commercial States, 1982-84[1]

| Period[2] | Eggs setEChicks placed | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | Percent of previous year | 1982/83 | 1983/84 | Percent of previous year |
| | *Thousands* | | *Percent* | *Thousands* | | *Percent* |
| November | | | | | | |
| 19 | 101,021 | 99,303 | 98 | 79,826 | 74,021 | 93 |
| 26 | 100,644 | 99,800 | 99 | 80,372 | 78,415 | 98 |
| December | | | | | | |
| 3 | 97,509 | 100,213 | 103 | 80,674 | 80,864 | 100 |
| 10 | 100,149 | 98,974 | 99 | 80,066 | 79,598 | 99 |
| 17 | 100,905 | 99,093 | 98 | 80,024 | 80,372 | 99 |
| 24 | 101,502 | 100,278 | 99 | 78,701 | 80,184 | 102 |
| 31 | 102,141 | 99,622 | | 80,616 | 79,519 | 99 |
| January | | | | | | |
| 7 | 101,762 | 99,740 | 97 | 81,633 | 79,254 | 97 |
| 14 | 101,782 | 99,118 | 98 | 82,002 | 80,849 | 99 |
| 21 | 99,885 | 100,493 | 101 | 82,537 | 79,995 | 97 |
| 28 | 101,945 | 101,413 | 100 | 82,110 | 77,985 | 95 |
| February | | | | | | |
| 4 | 103,052 | 102,185 | 99 | 82,030 | 78,873 | 96 |
| 11 | 103,598 | 101,571 | 98 | 79,795 | 80,945 | 101 |
| 18 | 103,813 | 102,724 | 99 | 81,839 | 81,350 | 99 |
| 25 | 105,134 | 105,245 | 100 | 83,030 | 82,368 | 99 |
| March | | | | | | |
| 3 | 105,702 | 106,529 | 101 | 83,951 | 81,929 | 98 |
| 10 | 105,235 | 106,474 | 101 | 84,203 | 82,882 | 98 |
| 17 | 105,873 | 106,825 | 101 | 85,470 | 85,344 | 100 |
| 24 | 103,188 | 106,411 | 103 | 85,976 | 86,169 | 100 |
| 31 | 105,043 | 107,985 | 103 | 86,070 | 86,202 | 100 |
| April | | | | | | |
| 7 | 104,680 | 108,597 | 104 | 85,456 | 85,462 | 100 |
| 14 | 104,286 | 108,240 | 104 | 83,405 | 85,560 | 103 |
| 21 | 103,308 | 107,263 | 104 | 85,274 | 87,152 | 102 |
| 2 | 101,114 | | | 84,966 | | |
| May | | | | | | |
| 5 | 102,881 | | | 84,837 | | |
| 12 | 101,793 | | | 84,137 | | |
| 19 | 102,512 | | | 82,602 | | |
| 26 | 102,787 | | | 83,366 | | |
| June | | | | | | |
| 2 | 102,528 | | | 83,343 | | |
| 9 | 103,493 | | | 83,491 | | |
| 16 | 101,977 | | | 83,540 | | |
| 23 | 99,380 | | | 83,819 | | |
| 30 | 95,280 | | | 84,486 | | |
| July | | | | | | |
| 7 | 99,600 | | | 83,702 | | |
| 14 | 99,886 | | | 80,707 | | |
| 21 | 100,089 | | | 76,852 | | |
| 28 | 99,227 | | | 81,042 | | |
| August | | | | | | |
| 4 | 98,790 | | | 80,892 | | |
| 11 | 99,956 | | | 79,960 | | |
| 18 | 98,543 | | | 78,733 | | |
| 25 | 97,417 | | | 78,042 | | |
| September | | | | | | |
| 1 | 92,809 | | | 79,096 | | |
| 8 | 90,407 | | | 78,579 | | |
| 15 | 85,182 | | | 77,477 | | |
| 22 | 95,745 | | | 72,852 | | |
| 29 | 96,039 | | | 71,959 | | |
| October | | | | | | |
| 6 | 92,106 | | | 67,918 | | |
| 13 | 86,564 | | | 76,910 | | |
| 20 | 86,757 | | | 77,286 | | |
| 27 | 91,574 | | | 74,430 | | |
| November | | | | | | |
| 3 | 97,046 | | | 69,939 | | |
| 10 | 100,214 | | | 70,260 | | |

[1]Ala., Ark., Calif., Del., Fla., Ga., Md., Miss., N.C., Pa., S.C., Tex., Va., W. Va., La., Mo., Tn., Or., and Wa. [2]Weeks in 1983/84 and corresponding weeks in 1982/83.

**Table 12—Federally inspected young chicken slaughter**

| Quarter and year | Number | Average weight | Live-weight pounds | Certi-fied RTC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million* | *Pounds* | *Million pounds* | |
| 1982 | | | | |
| I | 983 | 4.03 | 3,961 | 2,888 |
| II | 1,047 | 4.05 | 4,239 | 3,109 |
| III | 1,065 | 4.00 | 4,265 | 3,130 |
| IV | 973 | 4.10 | 3,991 | 2,911 |
| Year | 4,068 | 4.04 | 16,456 | 12,039 |
| 1983 | | | | |
| I | 1,022 | 4.10 | 4,186 | 3,061 |
| II | 1,084 | 4.13 | 4,473 | 3,276 |
| III | 1,062 | 4.00 | 4,254 | 3,135 |
| IV | 965 | 4.13 | 3,981 | 2,917 |
| Year | 4,133 | 4.09 | 16,984 | 12,389 |
| 1984 | | | | |
| I | 1,012 | 4.16 | 4,216 | 3,075 |

**Table 14—U.S. young chicken exports to major importers, January-March 1983-1984**

| Country or area | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand pounds* | |
| Japan | 36,826 | 23,968 |
| Singapore | 12,782 | 14,307 |
| Hong Kong | 9,653 | 12,268 |
| Canada | 3,864 | 8,191 |
| Leeward-Windward Is. | 7,428 | 5,794 |
| Jamaica | 14,369 | 5,373 |
| Netherlands Antilles | 3,604 | 3,359 |
| Mexico | 1,677 | 2,949 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,656 | 1,864 |
| French Pacific Is. | 1,407 | 1,857 |
| Federal Rep of Germany | 1,652 | 1,581 |
| Malaysia | 819 | 1,098 |
| Barbados | 1,779 | 1,047 |
| Brunei | 345 | 521 |
| Trust Terr. of Pacific Is. | 473 | 459 |
| Other | 14,284 | 4,767 |
| Total | 112,619 | 89,404 |

**Table 13—Young chicken prices and price spreads, 1983-84**

| Item | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | *Cents per pound* | | | | | | |
| Farm price[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 26.0 | 27.4 | 25.2 | 24.6 | 26.4 | 28.5 | 30.9 | 32.0 | 32.8 | 29.7 | 33.7 | 33.7 | 29.2 |
| 1984 | 36.9 | 37.4 | 37.8 | 34.8 | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale RTC 9-city average[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 43.1 | 45.2 | 41.9 | 40.9 | 46.9 | 49.1 | 52.8 | 54.2 | 54.5 | 50.4 | 56.3 | 57.1 | 49.4 |
| 1984 | 62.1 | 61.2 | 62.0 | 56.0 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4-region average retail price | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 69.2 | 70.4 | 70.3 | 67.9 | 69.1 | 70.3 | 72.8 | 74.0 | 77.0 | 73.8 | 76.9 | 81.4 | 72.8 |
| 1984 | 84.1 | 87.1 | 85.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Price spreads Farm-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 34.4 | 33.5 | 36.5 | 34.9 | 33.8 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 30.9 | 33.5 | 33.8 | 31.7 | 35.0 | 33.2 |
| 1984 | 34.2 | 37.0 | 35.0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm-to-retailer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 16.3 | 16.0 | 16.9 | 15.8 | 16.8 | 15.1 | 18.0 | 16.7 | 16.6 | 17.4 | 16.7 | 15.2 | 16.5 |
| 1984 | 17.7 | 17.9 | 16.6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 18.1 | 17.5 | 19.6 | 19.1 | 17.0 | 15.1 | 12.2 | 14.2 | 16.9 | 16.4 | 15.0 | 19.8 | 16.7 |
| 1984 | 16.5 | 19.2 | 18.3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | *1967 = 100* | | | | | | |
| Retail price index Whole chickens | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 186.8 | 190.6 | 190.7 | 184.5 | 187.7 | 192.1 | 198.7 | 202.1 | 209.6 | 199.1 | 207.6 | 219.4 | 197.4 |
| 1984 | 228.7 | 235.9 | 232.6 | | | | | | | | | | |

[1]Liveweight. [2]Beginning May 1983, 12-city composite weighted average.

**Table 15—U.S. mature chicken exports to major importers, January-March 1983-1984**

| Country or area | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand pounds* | |
| Canada | 1,889 | 3,021 |
| Leeward-Windward Is. | 7 | 671 |
| Trust Terr. of Pacific Is. | 482 | 573 |
| Netherlands Antilles | 241 | 394 |
| Mexico | 5 | 277 |
| Japan | 317 | 129 |
| Haiti | 101 | 96 |
| Saudi Arabia | 76 | 91 |
| Singapore | 0 | 35 |
| Netherlands | 39 | 29 |
| Liberia | 0 | 24 |
| Korea, Republic of | 18 | 22 |
| Bahamas | 30 | 8 |
| French Pacific Is. | 147 | 3 |
| Bermuda | 6 | 1 |
| Other | 827 | 1 |
| Total | 4,184 | 5,377 |

**Table 17—Federally inspected turkey slaughter**

| Quarter and year | Number | Average weight | Live-weight pounds | Certi-fied RTC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million* | *Pounds* | *Million pounds* | |
| 1982 | | | | |
| I | 26.4 | 19.67 | 519.2 | 410.4 |
| II | 35.0 | 18.91 | 661.0 | 527.9 |
| III | 51.0 | 18.67 | 951.7 | 761.5 |
| IV | 48.0 | 19.85 | 953.2 | 759.1 |
| Year | 160.4 | 19.24 | 3,085.1 | 2,458.9 |
| 1983 | | | | |
| I | 29.0 | 20.15 | 584.4 | 462.2 |
| II | 37.8 | 19.29 | 729.7 | 581.5 |
| III | 50.8 | 18.82 | 955.7 | 760.3 |
| IV | 47.4 | 20.12 | 952.8 | 759.0 |
| Year | 165.0 | 19.54 | 3,222.6 | 2,563.1 |
| 1984 | | | | |
| I | 27.0 | 20.26 | 546.8 | 431.1 |

**Table 16—Turkey hatchery operations, 1982-84**

| Month | Turkeys placed[1] | | | | | | Eggs in incubators first of month, changes from previous year | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Light breeds[2] | | Heavy breeds[3] | | Total | | Light breeds[2] | | Heavy breeds[3] | | Total | |
| | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 |
| | *Thousands* | | | | | | *Percent* | | | | | |
| September | 180 | 171 | 7,849 | 7,915 | 8,029 | 8,086 | −47 | 32 | 3 | −4 | 1 | −5 |
| October | 171 | 159 | 9,477 | 9,034 | 9,648 | 9,202 | −53 | −19 | 7 | −9 | 5 | −9 |
| November | 162 | 222 | 11,442 | 10,747 | 11,604 | 10,969 | −68 | 24 | 19 | −5 | 14 | −5 |
| December | 589 | 230 | 11,544 | 12,246 | 12,133 | 12,476 | −63 | −66 | 4 | 0 | −1 | −3 |
| January | 589 | (4) | 13,306 | (4) | 13,895 | 14,389 | −10 | −27 | −3 | −5 | 2 | −8 |
| February | 568 | (4) | 14,617 | (4) | 15,185 | 15,316 | −32 | (4) | 5 | (4) | 3 | −3 |
| March | 583 | (4) | 18,239 | (4) | 18,822 | 18,286 | −23 | (4) | 1 | (4) | 0 | −2 |
| April | 675 | | 19,089 | | 19,764 | | 18 | (4) | −2 | (4) | −3 | −5 |
| May | 651 | | 20,234 | | 20,885 | | −14 | | −2 | | −2 | |
| June | 688 | | 20,339 | | 21,027 | | −4 | | 0 | | −1 | |
| July | 742 | | 18,491 | | 19,233 | | −30 | | −1 | | −2 | |
| August | 591 | | 11,987 | | 12,578 | | −27 | | −7 | | −8 | |

[1]Excludes exported poults. Placed estimates should not be used to measure change from previous year. [2]Normal mature marketing weight under 12 pounds. [3]Normal mature marketing weight 12 pounds or over. [4]Breakdown by breeds not shown to avoid disclosing individual operations.

## Turkeys

Turkey production during 1984 may be above the year-earlier level. Wholesale prices are expected to be stronger.

### *Turkey Production To Slow*

Turkey meat produced in federally inspected plants during first-quarter 1984 totaled 431 million pounds, down 7 percent from 1983. Stronger prices after Thanksgiving 1983 encouraged producers to expand production. As a result, production in second-quarter 1984 is expected to increase 1 to 2 percent from the 582 million pounds produced last year.

After year-to-year increases during December 1983 through February 1984, poults placed during March declined 3 percent from 1983's 18.8 million. March is the start of the major hatching season and if placements remain below a year earlier through July, second-half slaughter will not increase as earlier forecast. The decline in poults placed during March, plus the number of eggs in incubators on April 1, suggest that third-quarter output of turkey meat in federally inspected plants will be about 2 percent above the 760 million pounds produced in 1983.

### *Cold Storage Stocks Below Average*

Stocks of frozen turkey on April 1 totaled 149 million pounds, down from 185 million last year, and below the 24-year average of 166 million pounds. Stocks have been low thus far in 1984, but with continuous production the stock level has not affected prices. In many years, stocks had to be moved early in the year when turkey demand was seasonally low. It is interesting that stocks of whole turkeys increased 14 percent from March 1 to April 1, while turkey parts and processed turkey declined. With turkey being promoted for Easter, stocks of whole turkey may have been increased to meet the expected demand.

**Table 18—Turkey prices and price spreads, 1983-84**

| Item | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | October | November | December | Average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | *Cents per pound* | | | | | | |
| Farm price[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 32.4 | 32.8 | 33.3 | 32.3 | 35.0 | 36.5 | 34.3 | 35.2 | 39.5 | 39.9 | 40.7 | 45.8 | 36.5 |
| 1984 | 46.6 | 41.3 | 41.6 | 43.3 | | | | | | | | | |
| New York, hens 8-16 lbs.[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 53.6 | 54.9 | 56.0 | 54.4 | 56.6 | 60.9 | 58.5 | 57.6 | 65.0 | 65.1 | 67.0 | 76.1 | 60.5 |
| 1984 | 72.2 | 64.7 | 66.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4-region average retail price | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 91.4 | 92.4 | 91.8 | 92.6 | 92.8 | 92.3 | 93.0 | 91.4 | 90.4 | 95.3 | 87.7 | 89.4 | 91.7 |
| 1984 | 92.8 | 94.4 | 95.6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Price spreads | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 53.0 | 52.9 | 51.5 | 52.9 | 50.7 | 46.9 | 50.0 | 49.2 | 41.0 | 45.7 | 36.0 | 28.7 | 46.5 |
| 1984 | 36.3 | 45.2 | 44.7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm-to-retailer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 23.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.9 | 21.7 | 23.4 | 24.4 | 25.5 | 21.0 | 21.4 | 20.8 | 19.7 | 22.3 |
| 1984 | 21.9 | 24.5 | 23.9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail-to-consumer | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 30.0 | 30.9 | 29.5 | 30.0 | 29.0 | 23.5 | 25.6 | 23.7 | 20.0 | 24.3 | 15.2 | 9.0 | 24.2 |
| 1984 | 14.3 | 20.6 | 20.8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | *December 1977=100* | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983 | 126.3 | 127.7 | 126.6 | 127.2 | 125.4 | 125.3 | 126.0 | 125.7 | 122.9 | 126.0 | 120.6 | 122.3 | 125.1 |
| 1984 | 125.4 | 128.5 | 127.9 | | | | | | | | | | |

[1]Liveweight. [2]Wholesale, ready-to-cook.

### *Turkey Prices To Remain Strong*

Prices of 8- to-16-pound young hen turkeys in New York averaged 68 cents per pound in the first quarter, up from 55 cents last year. Prices averaged 72 cents per pound in January, declined in February, and strengthened a little in late March. By the middle of the second quarter, cold storage stocks of frozen turkeys are likely to be accumulated for fourth-quarter consumption if prices show any weakness. As a result, prices of young hen turkeys in New York are expected to average 67 to 70 cents per pound during the second quarter, up from 57 cents last year. With supplies of turkey near a year earlier, prices in the third quarter will likely remain near the second quarter, a gain of 6 to 12 cents from the 60-cent average in 1983.

## Poultry and Egg Trade

During first-quarter 1984, exports of poultry and eggs were down from 1983 because of stronger domestic prices and strong competition. Also, while the U.S. economy was gaining strength, the rest of the world had not recovered to the same extent. The weaker general economies around the world likely limited imports.

Exports of young chickens in the first quarter were down 21 percent from 1983. Exports of whole young chicken continued to decline as a proportion of total young chickens exported. In 1982, whole chicken represented 17 percent of the total. With the increased competition for the Mideast market (the major buyer of whole birds), whole chickens in 1983 were 7 percent of the total. During January-March 1984, whole chickens made up 6 percent of the total. Five of the 20 countries that have imposed some type of restriction on young chicken imports because of avian influenza actually reduced imports but the other 15 increased imports of U.S. chicken. In addition, imports in the five countries may have been reduced because of higher broiler prices. During first-quarter 1984, countries with some type of avian influenza restriction reduced imports 11 percent, as opposed to the 21-percent decline for all countries relative to 1983.

**Table 19—U.S. turkey exports to major importers, January-March 1983-1984**

| Country or area | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| | *Thousand pounds* | |
| Federal Rep of Germany | 3,323 | 1,353 |
| Canada | 1,122 | 586 |
| Hong Kong | 434 | 582 |
| Egypt | 2,914 | 403 |
| Trust Terr. of Pacific Is. | 304 | 344 |
| Western Samoa | 0 | 317 |
| Republic of South Africa | 0 | 272 |
| Venezuela | 304 | 212 |
| Mexico | 19 | 189 |
| Barbados | 4 | 185 |
| Haiti | 20 | 184 |
| Leeward-Windward Is. | 217 | 154 |
| Bahamas | 123 | 119 |
| Japan | 758 | 93 |
| Saudi Arabia | 430 | 74 |
| Other | 1,450 | 305 |
| Total | 11,422 | 5,370 |

Exports of whole turkey and turkey parts in the first quarter were down 53 percent from the 11 million pounds exported in 1983. Whole turkey exports were 68 percent below 1983's 2 million pounds, and parts were 50 percent

**Table 20—Estimated costs and returns, 1981-83[1]**

| Year | Production costs | | Wholesale | | Net returns |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feed | Total | Total costs[2] | Price[3] | |
| | | | (cts/doz) | | |
| Market eggs | | | | | |
| 1982 | | | | | |
| I | 30.4 | 45.9 | 67.0 | 78.9 | 11.9 |
| II | 31.5 | 47.0 | 68.1 | 67.0 | −1.0 |
| III | 30.0 | 45.5 | 66.6 | 67.0 | 0.4 |
| IV | 27.1 | 42.6 | 63.7 | 67.5 | 3.8 |
| Year[4] | 29.7 | 45.2 | 66.3 | 70.1 | 3.8 |
| 1983 | | | | | |
| I | 29.7 | 47.2 | 67.7 | 66.4 | −1.2 |
| II | 33.5 | 51.0 | 71.5 | 69.2 | −2.3 |
| III | 35.6 | 53.1 | 73.6 | 75.3 | 1.7 |
| IV | 37.7 | 55.2 | 75.7 | 90.7 | 15.0 |
| Year[4] | 34.1 | 51.6 | 72.1 | 75.4 | 3.3 |
| 1984 | | | | | |
| I | 35.9 | 54.1 | 74.8 | 108.4 | 33.6 |
| | | | (cts/lb) | | |
| Broilers | | | | | |
| 1982 | | | | | |
| I | 16.7 | 25.0 | 47.0 | 44.8 | −2.1 |
| II | 17.3 | 25.6 | 47.7 | 45.2 | −2.6 |
| III | 17.3 | 25.6 | 47.7 | 44.4 | −3.3 |
| IV | 15.0 | 23.3 | 44.6 | 41.5 | −3.1 |
| Year[4] | 16.6 | 24.9 | 46.8 | 44.0 | −2.8 |
| 1983 | | | | | |
| I | 16.2 | 24.7 | 47.7 | 43.4 | −4.3 |
| II | 18.1 | 26.6 | 50.2 | 45.6 | −4.6 |
| III | 19.0 | 27.5 | 51.4 | 53.9 | 2.4 |
| IV | 21.4 | 29.9 | 54.6 | 54.6 | .0 |
| Year[4] | 18.6 | 27.1 | 51.0 | 49.3 | −1.7 |
| 1984 | | | | | |
| I | 20.7 | 29.5 | 54.3 | 61.7 | 7.4 |
| | | | (cts/lb) | | |
| Turkeys | | | | | |
| 1982 | | | | | |
| I | 24.1 | 35.9 | 59.7 | 57.0 | −2.7 |
| II | 25.1 | 36.9 | 60.9 | 59.3 | −1.6 |
| III | 25.5 | 37.3 | 61.4 | 67.0 | 5.6 |
| IV | 23.2 | 35.0 | 58.5 | 66.9 | 8.3 |
| Year[4] | 24.5 | 36.3 | 60.1 | 63.6 | 3.5 |
| 1983 | | | | | |
| I | 22.7 | 35.9 | 60.6 | 56.4 | −4.2 |
| II | 24.9 | 38.1 | 63.3 | 59.0 | −4.3 |
| III | 27.0 | 40.2 | 66.0 | 63.7 | −2.3 |
| IV | 29.8 | 43.0 | 69.4 | 71.0 | 1.5 |
| Year[4] | 26.6 | 39.8 | 65.4 | 63.5 | −2.0 |
| 1984 | | | | | |
| I | 30.3 | 43.9 | 70.9 | 70.6 | −0.3 |

[1]Estimated by computerized formula. Costs are weighted by monthly production. [2]Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market value. [3]Wholesale prices used are the 13 metro area egg price, 9-city weighted average broiler price, and a 3-city weighted average of 8-16 lb. young hens and 24-26 lb. toms in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. [4]Weighted average.

lower. Turkey exports to countries limiting imports because of avian influenza were down 58 percent from first-quarter 1983.

Sharply higher prices, especially in January, limited exports of shell eggs and egg products. During January-March, exports of eggs and the shell equivalent of egg products totaled 12 million dozen, down from 23 million dozen in 1983. Exports to countries restricting imports because of avian influenza were down 47 percent.

Exports of baby chicks in January-March were down only 12,000 head from the 7.4 million exported in 1983. However, exports to countries with restrictions to limit avian influenza were down 5 percent from last year. Exports of turkey poults were down 91 percent from last year's 389,000.

## Higher 1983 Gross Income From Poultry and Eggs

Total gross income from the production of poultry and eggs during the 1983 marketing year (December 1, 1982-November 30, 1983) was $9.7 billion, up 4 percent from 1982. Broilers were the most important component, making up 50 percent of total gross income.

Increased income for broilers resulted from both larger production and higher prices from the previous year. Income from eggs was up slightly, as production declines were offset by higher prices. The opposite was true for turkeys with more output but lower prices. However, production increased more than prices declined and income was up.

# LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

## Hogs

The March Hogs and Pigs report indicated that the sharp liquidation of the breeding herd that began last summer continued into the winter. The March 1 breeding herd in the 10 States that conduct quarterly surveys was the lowest since 1973, when comparable data for these 10 States became available. The liquidation was caused by lower hog prices and higher feed costs that resulted in poor returns to hog producers since early 1983. Farm prices for corn in the second half of 1983 averaged about a $1 a bushel higher than a year earlier and added more than $6 per cwt to farrow-to-finish production costs. Meanwhile, average prices of barrows and gilts at the 7 major markets dropped $14 per cwt. This combination of lower receipts and higher production costs reduced returns by more than $20 per cwt for the average farrow-to-finish producer.

Although farrow-to-finish producers' returns improved in first-quarter 1984 over fourth-quarter 1983, returns were still below breakeven. Hog prices have risen since February, and are expected to continue rising into the summer months, but much of the price improvement is being offset by rising feed costs.

The low percentage of total slaughter accounted for by sows in February and March suggests that the sharp liquidation of the breeding herd that began last summer

**Table 21—Eggs: Production, disposition and value, 1975-83[1, 2]**

| Year | Average number of layers on hand during the year | Eggs: Per layer on hand during year | Eggs: Total | Eggs: Consumed on farms where produced | Eggs: Sold | Eggs: Price per dozen | Eggs: Gross income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Million | Number | | Million | | Cents | Million dollars |
| 1975 | 278 | 232 | 64,626 | 536 | 64,090 | 52.4 | 2,819 |
| 1976 | 274 | 235 | 64,511 | 502 | 64,009 | 58.3 | 3,133 |
| 1977 | 275 | 235 | 64,600 | 475 | 64,125 | 55.6 | 2,995 |
| 1978 | 281 | 239 | 67,140 | 457 | 66,683 | 52.2 | 2,920 |
| 1979 | 289 | 240 | 69,209 | 448 | 68,761 | 58.3 | 3,360 |
| 1980 | 288 | 244 | 69,683 | 442 | 69,242 | 56.3 | 3,268 |
| 1981 | 288 | 243 | 69,827 | 444 | 69,383 | 63.1 | 3,671 |
| 1982 | 286 | 243 | 69,706 | 432 | 69,274 | 59.5 | 3,458 |
| 1983 3/ | 276 | 247 | 68,108 | 423 | 67,685 | 61.1 | 3,465 |

[1]Data cover both farm and commercial operations. [2]December 1 previous year-November 30 following year. [3]Preliminary.

**Table 22—Gross farm income from poultry and eggs, 1975-83[1]**

| Year | Value of sales and consumption on farms where produced | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Eggs | | | | Nonbroiler chicken | | Totals[2] | | |
| | Sales | Consumption on farms | Broilers | Turkeys | Sales | Consumption on farms | Sales | Consumption on farms | Gross income |
| | Million dollars | | | | | | | | |
| 1975 | 2,797 | 22 | 2,915 | 793 | 104 | 5 | 6,609 | 28 | 6,637 |
| 1976 | 3,110 | 24 | 2,953 | 825 | 135 | 6 | 7,024 | 30 | 7,053 |
| 1977 | 2,973 | 21 | 3,067 | 910 | 130 | 6 | 7,080 | 27 | 7,107 |
| 1978 | 2,900 | 19 | 3,682 | 1,157 | 129 | 5 | 7,868 | 25 | 7,892 |
| 1979 | 3,339 | 21 | 4,031 | 1,226 | 164 | 6 | 8,759 | 27 | 8,787 |
| 1980 | 3,248 | 20 | 4,304 | 1,253 | 130 | 5 | 8,934 | 25 | 8,959 |
| 1981 | 3,649 | 23 | 4,703 | 1,247 | 130 | 5 | 9,728 | 27 | 9,756 |
| 1982 | 3,437 | 21 | 4,506 | 1,246 | 119 | 4 | 9,308 | 25 | 9,333 |
| 1983[3] | 3,443 | 21 | 4,873 | 1,261 | 147 | 5 | 9,724 | 26 | 9,750 |

[1]All data (except turkey) correspond to a December-November marketing year. Details may not add due to rounding. [2]Minus other poultry, which is minuscule. [3]Preliminary.

**Table 23—Chicken and turkey: Production, disposition, and price, 1975-83**

| Year | Broilers[1] | | | Nonbroiler chicken[1] | | | | | Turkey | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Produced[2] | | | Sales | | Consumed on farms | | | Sales[2] | | |
| | Number | Pounds | Price per pound[3] | Number | Pounds | Number | Pounds | Price per pound[3] | Number | Pounds | Price per pound[3] |
| | Million | | Cents | Million | | | | Cents | Million | | Cents |
| 1975 | 2,950 | 11,096 | 26.3 | 224 | 1,047 | 13 | 51 | 9.9 | 124 | 2,277 | 34.8 |
| 1976 | 3,283 | 12,517 | 23.6 | 217 | 1,047 | 13 | 49 | 12.9 | 140 | 2,605 | 31.7 |
| 1977 | 3,400 | 12,993 | 23.6 | 224 | 1,077 | 12 | 47 | 12.0 | 136 | 2,562 | 35.5 |
| 1978 | 3,613 | 14,022 | 26.3 | 217 | 1,037 | 11 | 44 | 12.4 | 139 | 2,653 | 43.6 |
| 1979 | 3,951 | 15,519 | 26.0 | 233 | 1,135 | 11 | 43 | 14.4 | 156 | 2,958 | 41.4 |
| 1980 | 3,964 | 15,541 | 27.7 | 238 | 1,183 | 11 | 43 | 11.0 | 165 | 3,032 | 41.3 |
| 1981 | 4,150 | 16,530 | 28.5 | 239 | 1,164 | 11 | 42 | 11.1 | 171 | 3,263 | 38.2 |
| 1982 | 4,151 | 16,770 | 26.9 | 242 | 1,159 | 10 | 40 | 10.3 | 165 | 3,155 | 39.5 |
| 1983[4] | 4,184 | 17,038 | 28.6 | 236 | 1,156 | 9 | 37 | 12.7 | 170 | 3,316 | 38.0 |

[1]Broiler and nonbroiler data reported as consumption which is less than 1 percent of total production. December-November marketing year. [3]Includes home consumption. [3]Marketing year average. [4]Preliminary.

## Table 24—Commercial broilers and turkeys: Number produced or raised by States and regions, by years, 1980-83[1]

| State and region | Commercial broilers produced[1] | | | | Turkeys raised, all breeds[7] | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1980[2] | 1981[2] | 1982[3] | 1983[3] | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 |
| | | | | *Thousands* | | | | |
| Maine | | | (4) | | | | | |
| New Hampshire | | | | | 24 | 28 | 22 | 26 |
| Vermont | | | | | | | | |
| Massachusetts | | | | | 126 | 145 | 145 | 160 |
| Rhode Island | | | | | | | | |
| Connecticut | | | | | 25 | 28 | 25 | 31 |
| New York | 600 | 540 | 570 | 610 | 258 | 268 | 267 | 332 |
| New Jersey | | | | | 69 | 70 | 75 | 85 |
| Pennsylvania[5] | 111,553 | 115,058 | 114,889 | 102,642 | 5,510 | 5,680 | 5,300 | 6,800 |
| North Atlantic | 112,153 | 115,598 | 115,459 | 103,252 | 6,012 | 6,219 | 5,834 | 7,434 |
| Ohio | 14,550 | 12,800 | 13,500 | 11,000 | 2,320 | 2,500 | 2,700 | 2,400 |
| Indiana | | | (4) | | 6,192 | 6,611 | 6,807 | 6,710 |
| Illinois | | | | | 474 | 407 | 291 | 208 |
| Michigan | 1,552 | 1,130 | 1,180 | 1,130 | 1,450 | 1,550 | 1,400 | 1,600 |
| Wisconsin | 11,390 | 12,450 | 11,650 | 11,270 | 5,045 | 6,039 | 6,731 | 7,115 |
| East North Central | 27,492 | 26,380 | 26,330 | 23,400 | 15,481 | 17,107 | 17,929 | 18,033 |
| Minnesota | 19,400 | 21,500 | 23,700 | 24,400 | 25,500 | 25,700 | 26,000 | 27,000 |
| Iowa | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,300 | 2,600 | 6,625 | 7,090 | 6,700 | 6,710 |
| Missouri | 23,561 | 26,100 | (4) | | 12,400 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 13,000 |
| North Dakota | | | | | 940 | 1,050 | 930 | 740 |
| South Dakota | | | | | 1,277 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,528 |
| Nebraska | 2,000 | 1,580 | 1,950 | 1,250 | 811 | 680 | 715 | 814 |
| Kansas | | | | | 132 | 263 | 202 | 115 |
| West North Central | 47,961 | 52,280 | 31,950 | 28,250 | 47,685 | 48,283 | 48,147 | 49,907 |
| Delaware | 166,729 | 169,596 | 177,799 | 181,862 | 178 | 178 | 238 | 294 |
| Maryland | 236,920 | 253,313 | 267,174 | 260,477 | 86 | 88 | 97 | 100 |
| Virginia | 126,358 | 133,839 | 140,072 | 144,041 | 10,079 | 10,015 | 10,081 | 11,388 |
| West Virginia | 21,786 | 24,990 | 26,140 | 28,594 | 2,282 | 2,149 | 2,115 | 1,849 |
| North Carolina | 399,592 | 423,160 | 418,620 | 419,740 | 24,250 | 26,800 | 27,000 | 28,700 |
| South Carolina | 43,124 | 43,621 | 47,973 | 52,167 | 3,202 | 2,898 | 2,616 | 2,159 |
| Georgia | 573,899 | 614,687 | 610,735 | 626,551 | 2,380 | 2,734 | 2,680 | 2,266 |
| Florida | 87,143 | 92,350 | 97,246 | 97,378 | | | | |
| South Atlantic | 1,655,5512 | 1,755,556 | 1,785,759 | 1,810,810 | 42,605 | 44,862 | 44,827 | 46,756 |
| Kentucky | 3,195 | 3,144 | 2,907 | 3,054 | | | | |
| Tennessee | 66,929 | 64,521 | (4) | | | | | |
| Alabama | 494,709 | 519,288 | 500,232 | 515,729 | | | | |
| Mississippi | 275,978 | 290,118 | 298,587 | 316,304 | | | | |
| Arkansas | 634,877 | 675,110 | 668,497 | 673,136 | 14,500 | 15,070 | 13,000 | 12,850 |
| Louisiana | 98,957 | 104,346 | (4) | | | | | |
| Oklahoma | 45,014 | 50,866 | 51,170 | 55,230 | 2,215 | 1,605 | 2,055 | 1,600 |
| Texas | 221,081 | 231,700 | 222,500 | 212,600 | 7,750 | 7,300 | 5,200 | 5,400 |
| South Central | 1,840,740 | 1,939,093 | 1,743,893 | 1,776,053 | 24,465 | 23,975 | 20,255 | 19,850 |
| Montana | | | | | | | | |
| Idaho | | | | | | | | |
| Wyoming | | | | | | | | |
| Colorado | | | | | 4,130 | 4,300 | 4,065 | 4,435 |
| New Mexico | | | | | | | | |
| Arizona | | | | | | | | |
| Utah | | | | | 2,409 | 2,901 | 2,404 | 2,328 |
| Nevada | | | | | | | | |
| Washington | 20,641 | 21,879 | 21,805 | 20,500 | | | | |
| Oregon | 17,100 | 18,200 | 16,000 | 13,000 | 1,170 | 1,400 | 1,050 | 825 |
| California | 152,400 | 158,800 | 167,400 | 171,622 | 20,786 | 21,768 | 20,000 | 20,200 |
| West | 190,141 | 198,879 | 205,205 | 205,122 | 28,495 | 30,369 | 27,519 | 27,788 |
| Alaska | | | | | | | | |
| Hawaii | 2,576 | 3,009 | 3,044 | 2,891 | | | | |
| Other States[4] | 87,838 | 59,005 | 242,635 | 233,882 | | | | |
| 48 States | | | | | 164,743 | 170,815 | 164,511 | 169,768 |
| United States[6] | 3,964,452 | 4,149,800 | 4,151,275 | 4,183,660 | 164,743 | 170,815 | 164,511 | 169,768 |

[1]Includes production of other meat-type breeds. [2]December 1 through November 30 marketing year. [3]Calendar year. [4]Combined to avoid disclosing individual operations. [5]Included are broilers destroyed due to the outbreak of avian influenza in 1983. [6]Excludes States producing less than 500,000 birds and includes broilers destroyed due the outbreak of avian influenza in 1983. [7]Does not include young turkeys lost; based on turkeys hatched September 1 of previous year through August 31, of the current year.

has ended. However, producer returns below breakeven don't provide an incentive to rebuild the herd. So, the breeding herd is expected to plateau until at least mid or late summer, when 1984 corn crop prospects and 1984/85 grain prices become more certain. Also, by that time, producers should see higher hog prices.

### *Lower Inventory Points to Lower Pork Production*

All hogs and pigs on March 1 in the 10 States conducting quarterly surveys totaled 39.5 million head, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The breeding inventory totaled 5.35 million head, 10 percent below last year, while market hogs totaled 34.2 million head, 5 percent below last year.

Although the breeding inventories in all 10 States were below a year ago, there was large variation among States. The declines ranged from 4 percent in Ohio to 26 percent in Kansas. In the two largest hog producing States—Iowa and Illinois—the declines were 10 and 6 percent, respectively. In the 10 States, the December-February pig crop declined 13 percent, as farrowings dropped 11 percent and pigs per litter declined 2 percent from last year's record 7.44 pigs.

December-February farrowings were down sharply from earlier intentions. Producers' first intentions (reported in September) had been to have 1 percent fewer sows farrow during December-February, while their second intentions (reported in December) were to have 3 percent fewer sows farrow. Part of the reduced farrowings is probably due to reduced conception rates caused by last summer's extremely hot weather and the aftereffects during the breeding season. The reduced number of pigs per litter was probably caused by two factors: Smaller litters resulting from last summer's hot weather and extremely cold weather that stressed the baby pigs during the farrowing period.

As of March 1, producers indicated intentions to have 2.48 million sows farrow during March-May, down 11 percent from a year ago. In December producers indicated an 8-percent decline in farrowings during March-May. Producers' first intentions for June-August are to have 2.1 million sows farrow, down 13 percent from a year earlier. If these intentions are realized, June-August farrowings would be the lowest since 1975.

The smaller inventories and farrowing plans indicate sharply lower pork production for second-half 1984. In the first quarter, commercial pork production totaled 3,737 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Commercial slaughter totaled 21.8 million head, up 8 percent, while the average dressed weight declined a pound from last year's 172 pounds.

Hog slaughter in the second quarter will be drawn largely from the inventory of market hogs weighing 60 to 179 pounds on March 1, which was down 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hogs to be slaughtered is expected to be 3 to 5 percent below last year. The average dressed weight will likely be slightly below last

**Table 27—Hogs on farms March 1, farrowings and pig crops, 10 States[1]**

| Item | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1983/82 | 1984/83 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1,000 head* | | *Percent change* | |
| Inventory | 40,610 | 41,840 | 30,540 | −3 | −5 |
| Breeding | 5,578 | 5,928 | 5,353 | −4 | −10 |
| Market | 35,032 | 35,912 | 34,187 | −2 | −5 |
| Under 60 lb | 12,755 | 13,672 | 12,026 | −6 | −12 |
| 60-119 lb | 8,764 | 8,979 | 8,510 | −3 | −5 |
| 120-179 lb | 7,815 | 7,697 | 7,774 | −1 | +1 |
| 180 + lb | 5,698 | 5,564 | 5,877 | +3 | +6 |
| Sows farrowing | | | | | |
| December[2]-February | 1,977 | 2,090 | 1,864 | −6 | −11 |
| March-May | 2,391 | 2,768 | [3]2,475 | +4 | −11 |
| December[2]-May | 4,368 | 4,858 | [4]4,339 | −1 | −11 |
| June-August | 2,199 | 2,400 | [3]2,098 | −5 | −13 |
| September-November | 2,363 | 2,370 | | | |
| June-November | 4,562 | 4,770 | | | |
| Pig crops | | | | | |
| December[2]-February | 14,059 | 15,543 | 13,536 | −4 | −13 |
| March-May | 17,943 | 21,063 | | | |
| December[2]-May | 32,002 | 36,606 | | | |
| June-August | 16,254 | 17,675 | | | |
| September-November | 17,548 | 17,611 | | | |
| June-November | 33,802 | 35,286 | | | |
| | | | *Number* | | |
| Pigs per litter | | | | | |
| December[2]-February | 7.11 | 7.44 | 7.26 | +2 | −2 |
| March-May | 7.50 | 7.61 | | | |
| December[2]-May | 7.33 | 7.54 | | | |
| June-August | 7.39 | 7.36 | | | |
| September-November | 7.43 | 7.43 | | | |
| June-November | 7.41 | 7.40 | | | |

[1]Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Ohio. [2]December preceding year. [3]Intentions. [4]Intentions for March-May.

**Table 25—Federally inspected hog slaughter**

| Week ended | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Thousands* | |
| Jan. 1[1] | 1,428 | 1,204 | 1,350 |
| 8 | 1,881 | 1,457 | 1,418 |
| 15 | 1,656 | 1,564 | 1,708 |
| 22 | 1,643 | 1,561 | 1,625 |
| 29 | 1,623 | 1,519 | 1,577 |
| Feb. 5 | 1,552 | 1,350 | 1,543 |
| 12 | 1,650 | 1,467 | 1,571 |
| 19 | 1,484 | 1,491 | 1,578 |
| 26 | 1,652 | 1,449 | 1,579 |
| Mar. 5 | 1,698 | 1,544 | 1,656 |
| 12 | 1,676 | 1,646 | 1,791 |
| 19 | 1,663 | 1,584 | 1,691 |
| 26 | 1,705 | 1,546 | 1,681 |
| Apr. 2 | 1,609 | 1,558 | 1,695 |
| 9 | 1,606 | 1,607 | |
| 16 | 1,608 | 1,738 | |
| 23 | 1,656 | 1,704 | |
| 30 | 1,640 | 1,694 | |
| May. 7 | 1,596 | 1,659 | |
| 14 | 1,610 | 1,642 | |
| 21 | 1,553 | 1,607 | |
| 28 | 1,532 | 1,558 | |
| June 4 | 1,279 | 1,390 | |
| 11 | 1,561 | 1,617 | |
| 18 | 1,467 | 1,528 | |
| 25 | 1,416 | 1,510 | |
| July 2 | 1,394 | 1,557 | |
| 9 | 1,162 | 1,348 | |
| 16 | 1,434 | 1,538 | |
| 23 | 1,352 | 1,493 | |
| 30 | 1,357 | 1,535 | |
| Aug. 6 | 1,398 | 1,476 | |
| 13 | 1,391 | 1,540 | |
| 20 | 1,424 | 1,535 | |
| 27 | 1,400 | 1,473 | |
| Sept. 3 | 1,411 | 1,613 | |
| 10 | 1,286 | 1,435 | |
| 17 | 1,527 | 1,772 | |
| 24 | 1,418 | 1,716 | |
| Oct. 1 | 1,501 | 1,732 | |
| 8 | 1,482 | 1,841 | |
| 15 | 1,536 | 1,844 | |
| 22 | 1,599 | 1,895 | |
| 29 | 1,614 | 1,844 | |
| Nov. 5 | 1,620 | 1,927 | |
| 12 | 1,677 | 1,955 | |
| 19 | 1,650 | 1,981 | |
| 26 | 1,310 | 1,593 | |
| Dec. 3 | 1,676 | 1,944 | |
| 10 | 1,523 | 1,941 | |
| 17 | 1,588 | 1,804 | |
| 24 | 1,278 | 1,465 | |

[1]Corresponding dates-1982: January 2, 1982; 1983: January 1, 1983; 1984: December 31, 1983.

**Table 26—Feeder pig prices consistent with break-even, given corn and market hog prices[1]**

| Corn (farm price) | Barrow and gilts, $/cwt 45 | 50 | 55 | 60 | 65 | 70 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $/bu | | | *Feeder pigs, $ per head* | | | |
| 2.50 | 24 | 35 | 46 | 57 | 68 | 79 |
| 2.75 | 22 | 33 | 44 | 55 | 66 | 77 |
| 3.00 | 19 | 30 | 41 | 52 | 63 | 74 |
| 3.25 | 16 | 27 | 38 | 49 | 60 | 71 |
| 3.50 | 13 | 24 | 35 | 46 | 57 | 68 |
| 3.75 | 10 | 21 | 32 | 43 | 54 | 65 |

[1]Assuming protein and other costs at February 1984 levels.

year's relatively heavy 174 pounds because of sharply higher feed costs. So, commercial pork production for the second quarter is projected at 3,600 million pounds, down 5 percent from last year. Because of favorable weather in first-half 1983, rates of gain were relatively high, enabling producers to market hogs earlier than normal. However, this year more typical marketing patterns are expected because of the more normal weather conditions.

For the third quarter, commercial production is forecast to drop to 3,175 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year. Slaughter for this quarter will be drawn largely from the inventory of market hogs weighing under 60 pounds on March 1, which was down 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter is expected to be 13 to 15 percent below last year. This sharper drop than the inventory suggests is a matter of comparison with last year. Last summer, producers began reducing the breeding herd, adding to slaughter. In contrast, this year producers may begin expanding the breeding herd, thus lowering the number slaughtered. Also, the average dressed weight may be a little heavier than last year's heat-depressed 171 pounds.

The March-May pig crop is the principal source of hogs for slaughter in the fourth quarter. If producers follow their March 1 intentions, fourth-quarter slaughter is expected to be about 21.5 million head, down 12 percent from a year earlier. Commercial production is forecast to total 3,725 million pounds, also down 12 percent as the average dressed weight is expected to be about the same as last year's 173 pounds. However, if corn prices drop sharply this quarter, producers may feed hogs to heavier weights.

### *Hog Prices To Average Above Last Year*

Lower commercial pork production and steady to lower competing meat supplies are pushing hog prices higher. The expected slide in pork production in second-half 1984 has provided an incentive to store pork in early 1984 for that part of the year.

Barrow and gilt prices at the 7 major markets averaged $48 per cwt in the first quarter, down $7 from a year ago. Prices were the lowest in February, averaging $46 per cwt, down $4 from January. Typically, February prices are the highest of the quarter. Prices began to recover in March and averaged $47 per cwt. Prices in April averaged $48 per cwt and are expected to average in the mid $50's in June, as pork production declines on both a seasonal and year-over-year basis. Prices for the quarter will likely average $50 to $53 per cwt, compared with $47 a year earlier.

## Table 29—Corn Belt hog feeding[1]

| Purchased during / Marketed during | Selected costs at current rates[2] | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June / Oct. | July / Nov. | Aug. / Dec. | Sept. / Jan. 84 | Oct. / Feb. | Nov. / Mar. | Dec. / Apr. | Jan. 84 / May | Feb. / June | Mar. / July |
| | *Dollars per head* | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40-lb feeder pig | 26.05 | 21.24 | 24.01 | 22.96 | 22.27 | 24.54 | 27.65 | 33.61 | 43.48 | 50.12 |
| Corn (11 bu) | 33.40 | 34.10 | 37.18 | 35.97 | 34.10 | 34.32 | 34.65 | 34.54 | 33.99 | 36.41 |
| Protein supplement (130 lb) | 19.96 | 19.56 | 20.93 | 22.75 | 22.04 | 22.30 | 22.04 | 22.10 | 21.19 | 20.93 |
| Labor & management (1.3 hr) | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.48 | 10.83 | 10.83 | 10.83 |
| Vet medicine[3] | 2.61 | 2.61 | 2.62 | 2.62 | 2.62 | 2.63 | 2.65 | 2.67 | 2.68 | 2.70 |
| Interest on purchase (4 months) | 1.19 | .95 | 1.08 | 1.03 | 1.02 | 1.12 | 1.26 | 1.53 | 1.98 | 2.28 |
| Power, equip., fuel, shelter, depreciation[3] | 6.35 | 6.34 | 6.36 | 6.38 | 6.37 | 6.40 | 6.45 | 6.58 | 6.52 | 6.55 |
| Death loss (4% of purchase) | 1.04 | .84 | .96 | .92 | .89 | .98 | 1.11 | 1.34 | 1.74 | 2.00 |
| Transportation (100 miles) | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 | .48 |
| Marketing expenses | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 |
| Miscel. & indirect costs[3] | .65 | .65 | .65 | .65 | .65 | .66 | .66 | .67 | .67 | .67 |
| Total | 103.35 | 98.39 | 105.89 | 105.38 | 102.06 | 105.05 | 108.57 | 115.41 | 124.70 | 134.12 |
| Selling price/cwt required to cover: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feed and feeder costs (220 lb) $/cwt | 36.10 | 34.05 | 37.33 | 37.13 | 35.64 | 36.89 | 38.34 | 41.02 | 44.85 | 48.85 |
| Selling price/cwt required to cover all costs (220 lb) $/cwt. | 46.98 | 44.72 | 48.13 | 47.90 | 46.39 | 47.75 | 49.35 | 52.46 | 56.68 | 60.96 |
| Feed cost per 100-lb gain (180 lb) $/cwt | 29.64 | 29.81 | 32.28 | 32.62 | 31.19 | 31.46 | 31.49 | 31.47 | 30.66 | 31.86 |
| Barrows and gilts 7 markets $/cwt | 41.38 | 38.79 | 46.37 | 49.91 | 46.31 | 46.83 | | | | |
| Net margin $/cwt | −5.60 | −5.93 | −1.76 | +2.01 | −.08 | −.92 | | | | |
| Prices: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40-lb feeder pig (So. Missouri) $/head | 26.05 | 21.24 | 24.01 | 22.96 | 22.27 | 24.54 | 27.65 | 33.61 | 43.48 | 50.12 |
| Corn $/bu 4/ | 3.04 | 3.10 | 3.38 | 3.27 | 3.10 | 3.12 | 3.15 | 3.14 | 3.09 | 3.31 |
| 38-42% protein supp. $/cwt[5] | 15.35 | 15.05 | 16.10 | 17.50 | 16.95 | 17.15 | 16.95 | 17.00 | 16.30 | 16.10 |
| Labor & management $/hr[6] | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.06 | 8.33 | 8.33 | 8.33 |
| Interest rate (annual) | 13.66 | 13.49 | 13.49 | 13.49 | 13.70 | 13.70 | 13.70 | 13.65 | 13.65 | 13.65 |
| Transportation rate $/cwt (100 miles)[7] | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 |
| Marketing expenses $/cwt[8] | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 |
| Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100) | 1102 | 1100 | 1104 | 1107 | 1106 | 1111 | 1119 | 1128 | 1132 | 1138 |

[1]Although a majority of hog feeding operations in the Corn Belt are from farrow to finish, relative fattening expenses will be similar. [2]Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed rations and expense items do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. [3]Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes, and wage rates. [4]Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5]Average prices paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [6]Assumes an owner-operator receiving twice the farm labor rate. [7]Converted from cents/mile for a 44,000-pound haul. [8]Yardage plus commission fees at a Midwest terminal market.

**Table 28—Commercial hog slaughter[1] and production**

| Year | Barrows and gilts | Sows | Boars | Total[2] | Average dressed weight | Commercial production[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000 head | | | | Lb | Mil. lb |
| 1982: | | | | | | |
| I | 20,347 | 1,093 | 274 | 21,714 | 170 | 3,693 |
| II | 19,498 | 956 | 258 | 20,712 | 171 | 3,550 |
| III | 17,668 | 1,030 | 242 | 18,940 | 171 | 3,240 |
| IV | 19,583 | 1,023 | 219 | 20,825 | 175 | 3,638 |
| Year | 77,096 | 4,102 | 993 | 82,191 | 172 | 14,121 |
| 1983:[3] | | | | | | |
| I | 19,141 | 852 | 219 | 20,212 | 172 | 3,483 |
| II | 20,267 | 1,053 | 246 | 21,666 | 174 | 3,771 |
| III | 19,648 | 1,450 | 274 | 21,372 | 171 | 3,657 |
| IV | 22,808 | 1,291 | 235 | 24,334 | 173 | 4,206 |
| Year | 81,864 | 4,646 | 974 | 87,584 | 173 | 15,117 |
| 1984:[4] | | | | | | |
| I | 20,545 | 1,023 | 234 | 21,802 | 171 | 3,737 |

[1]Classes estimated. [2]Totals may not add due to rounding. [3]Revised. [4]Preliminary.

For the third quarter, prices are projected to average $57 to $63 per cwt, compared with $47 last year. The moderate decline in beef production, along with a strong economy, will be strengthening factors. On the other hand, consumers may show some resistance if pork prices rise too fast, dampening hog price increases. Fourth-quarter prices are expected to average $53 to $59 per cwt, compared with $42 last year.

### *Feeder Pig Prices Rise Sharply*

So far this year, feeder pig prices have risen sharply because of near breakeven finishing margins and sharply lower supplies. Prices for U.S. No. 1-2 Southern Missouri 40-50 pound feeder pigs rose from $28 a head in December 1983 to $52 in April. Based on February costs and a corn price of $3.25 a bushel, feeder pig finishers could afford to pay about $49 a head if expected barrow and gilt prices averaged about $60 per cwt.

Although finishers may have to pay a slight premium to obtain the pigs, given current expectations for corn and hog prices, feeder pig prices may average in the low $50's.

## Sheep and Lambs

Commercial production of lamb and mutton totaled 98 million pounds in first-quarter 1984, up 5 percent from a year ago and the highest first-quarter production since 1975. Slaughter totaled 1.7 million head, up 6 percent from a year earlier. The average dressed weight was fractionally lighter than last year. Mature sheep accounted for 6.1 percent of slaughter, compared with 5.7 percent last year, indicating a continuing liquidation of the sheep inventory. The liquidation is caused largely by reduced forage supplies in central California and western Texas.

In the second quarter, commercial lamb and mutton production may total 87 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Second-quarter slaughter is drawn largely from the remainder of the 1983 crop lambs still

**Table 30—Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter and production[1]**

| Year | Lambs and yearlings | Mature sheep | Total | Average dressed weight | Commercial production[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000 head | | | Lb | Million lb |
| 1982: | | | | | |
| I | 1,521 | 81 | 1,602 | 56 | 90 |
| II | 1,406 | 131 | 1,537 | 55 | 85 |
| III | 1,500 | 128 | 1,628 | 54 | 88 |
| IV | 1,555 | 127 | 1,681 | 55 | 93 |
| Year | 5,982 | 467 | 6,449 | 55 | 356 |
| 1983:[3] | | | | | |
| I | 1,533 | 91 | 1,624 | 57 | 93 |
| II | 1,441 | 135 | 1,576 | 56 | 89 |
| III | 1,597 | 142 | 1,739 | 54 | 94 |
| IV | 1,555 | 125 | 1,680 | 54 | 91 |
| Year | 6,126 | 493 | 6,619 | 55 | 367 |
| 1984:[4] | | | | | |
| I | 1,611 | 104 | 1,715 | 57 | 98 |

[1]Class estimated. [2]May not add due to rounding. [3]Revised. [4]Preliminary.

on feed, but first-quarter slaughter suggests that most of these lambs have been marketed. The other source of slaughter is the new-crop lambs, which were down 5 percent. The number of sheep and lambs on feed in 24 major States on January 1 was up 4 percent from a year earlier, and first-quarter lamb slaughter was up 5 percent. In addition, in the first 2 weeks of April, weekly sheep and lamb slaughter was highest since September 1975. The large increase was probably due to the need to expand supplies for the Easter/Passover season, when demand for lamb traditionally rises. Sheep and lamb slaughter is declining from last year now that the holiday has passed. However, because of poor forage conditions in the major sheep-raising areas, the liquidation of sheep flocks is expected to continue.

Choice lamb prices at San Angelo averaged $59 per cwt in the first quarter, down $1 from a year ago. However, the Easter/Passover season was earlier last year. In the second quarter, Choice lamb prices are expected to aver-

**Table 31—Commercial cattle slaughter[1] and production**

| Year | Steers and heifers: Fed | Nonfed | Total | Cows | Bulls and stags | Total[2] | Average dressed weight | Commercial production[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | | | | | | *Lb* | *Mil. lb* |
| 1982: | | | | | | | | |
| I | 6,148 | 620 | 6,768 | 1,738 | 173 | 8,679 | 629 | 5,455 |
| II | 5,997 | 746 | 6,743 | 1,685 | 214 | 8,642 | 621 | 5,363 |
| III | 6,660 | 542 | 7,202 | 1,787 | 225 | 9,214 | 622 | 5,730 |
| IV | 6,097 | 861 | 6,958 | 2,144 | 206 | 9,308 | 625 | 5,818 |
| Year | 24,902 | 2,769 | 27,671 | 7,354 | 818 | 35,843 | 624 | 22,366 |
| 1983:[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 6,419 | 424 | 6,846 | 1,701 | 188 | 8,732 | 633 | 5,527 |
| II | 6,367 | 581 | 6,948 | 1,694 | 209 | 8,851 | 628 | 5,556 |
| III | 6,799 | 621 | 7,420 | 1,908 | 220 | 9,548 | 630 | 6,015 |
| IV | 6,145 | 888 | 7,033 | 2,294 | 191 | 9,518 | 626 | 5,962 |
| Year | 25,730 | 2,514 | 28,244 | 7,597 | 808 | 36,649 | 629 | 23,060 |
| 1984:[4] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 6,467 | 456 | 6,923 | 2,080 | 165 | 9,168 | 623 | 5,708 |

[1]Classes estimated. [2]May not add due to rounding. [3]Revised. [4]Preliminary.

**Table 32—Commercial calf slaughter and production**

| Year | Slaughter[1] | Average dressed weight | Production[1] |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *Lb* | *Million lb* |
| 1982: | | | |
| I | 770 | 139 | 107 |
| II | 675 | 147 | 99 |
| III | 770 | 139 | 107 |
| IV | 806 | 136 | 110 |
| Year | 3,021 | 140 | 423 |
| 1983: | | | |
| I | 734 | 140 | 103 |
| II | 669 | 146 | 98 |
| III | 805 | 137 | 110 |
| IV | 868 | 135 | 117 |
| Year | 3,076 | 139 | 428 |
| 1984:[2] | | | |
| I | 817 | 141 | 115 |

[1]May not add due to rounding. [2]Preliminary.

age $61 to $64 per cwt, compared with $61 last year. If projected slaughter rates are realized, prices may continue in the mid-$60's until June, then decline as spring lambs from the North Central and Rocky Mountain States come to market.

## Cattle

### *Cow Slaughter Up 22 Percent Last Winter*

Tight forage supplies, coupled with severe weather, caused a 5-percent increase in cattle slaughter for the first quarter of the year. Nevertheless, slaughter increases were offset somewhat by lower slaughter weights. Commercial dressed weights averaged 623 pounds—10 pounds lighter than a year earlier. Therefore, commercial beef production rose only 3 percent from first-quarter 1983.

Increased cow slaughter, as well as poor weight gains for cattle in feedlots, contributed to the reduction in slaughter weights during the first half of the quarter. Cow slaughter under Federal inspection, at 2 million head, was 22 percent above a year earlier. Dairy cows accounted for 51 percent of the total federally inspected cow slaughter—above normal culling rates due to participation in the dairy diversion program. Also, some nonparticipating dairy producers culled more cows to adjust for increasing production costs and lower effective milk prices. Dairy producers signing up for the milk diversion program stated intentions of culling about 162,500 additional cows, 16 percent of first-quarter dairy cow slaughter. Not only was dairy cow slaughter stepped up during the winter quarter, but additional beef cows were also sent to slaughter because of limited forage and hay supplies.

### *Choice Steer Prices Up 12 Percent From Last Year*

During December, prices for fed cattle began an upward trend that lasted until the second week of March, when Choice steers at Omaha peaked at $69.20. The average price for Choice steers was $68.60 in March and $67.58 for the first quarter. This price for first-quarter 1983 was $61.52. Yearling feeder cattle prices rose about $9 from last August to average $67.42 in February and $66.31 for the quarter. Increased cow slaughter held utility cow prices below last year's quarterly average of $40.07. Nevertheless, utility cows averaged $38.99 this winter after reaching nearly $45 in March and averaging $44 for the month.

### *Corn Belt Placements Down, Other Areas Up Sharply*

Cattle feeders in the Corn Belt adjusted to severe weather and, to a larger extent, rising corn prices, by placing about 23 percent less cattle in feedlots during January-March than in the same period last year. Most notably, Iowa feeders placed 22 percent fewer cattle than during first-quarter 1983.

## Table 33—Federally inspected cattle slaughter

| Week ended | Cattle | | Steers | | Cows | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Total | | Dairy | Dairy as Percent of total |
| | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 | 1984 | |
| | *Thousands* | | | | | | | *Percent* |
| Jan. 1[1] | 555 | 589 | 268 | 292 | 115 | 133 | — | — |
| 8 | 682 | 606 | 299 | 277 | 159 | 164 | 84 | 51 |
| 15 | 725 | 699 | 337 | 325 | 156 | 180 | 90 | 50 |
| 22 | 693 | 707 | 329 | 339 | 140 | 163 | 87 | 53 |
| 29 | 667 | 693 | 325 | 333 | 132 | 169 | 90 | 53 |
| Feb. 5 | 637 | 657 | 312 | 318 | 119 | 159 | 89 | 56 |
| 12 | 668 | 689 | 330 | 344 | 126 | 150 | 81 | 54 |
| 19 | 631 | 683 | 310 | 425 | 126 | 153 | 79 | 51 |
| 26 | 624 | 666 | 326 | 318 | 114 | 146 | 77 | 52 |
| Mar. 5 | 621 | 684 | 306 | 329 | 112 | 139 | 72 | 52 |
| 12 | 615 | 675 | 312 | 324 | 108 | 145 | 69 | 48 |
| 19 | 628 | 689 | 322 | 342 | 114 | 143 | 68 | 48 |
| 26 | 608 | 644 | 299 | 319 | 113 | 134 | 67 | 50 |
| Apr. 2 | 589 | 650 | 283 | 312 | 112 | 139 | 67 | 48 |
| 9 | 588 | 631 | 287 | 301 | 119 | 135 | 65 | 48 |
| 16 | 644 | | 333 | | 121 | | | |
| 23 | 636 | | 316 | | 127 | | | |
| 30 | 623 | | 326 | | 118 | | | |
| May 7 | 649 | | 332 | | 127 | | | |
| 14 | 675 | | 339 | | 126 | | | |
| 21 | 669 | | 333 | | 127 | | | |
| 28 | 684 | | 333 | | 130 | | | |
| June 4 | 591 | | 293 | | 109 | | | |
| 11 | 690 | | 338 | | 128 | | | |
| 18 | 675 | | 324 | | 126 | | | |
| 25 | 658 | | 313 | | 132 | | | |
| July 2 | 662 | | 325 | | 129 | | | |
| 9 | 590 | | 304 | | 97 | | | |
| 16 | 682 | | 330 | | 135 | | | |
| 23 | 652 | | 312 | | 127 | | | |
| 30 | 661 | | 323 | | 126 | | | |
| Aug. 6 | 688 | | 329 | | 131 | | | |
| 13 | 710 | | 338 | | 140 | | | |
| 20 | 706 | | 338 | | 143 | | | |
| 27 | 708 | | 339 | | 142 | | | |
| Sept. 3 | 735 | | 354 | | 155 | | | |
| 10 | 644 | | 304 | | 125 | | | |
| 17 | 759 | | 351 | | 154 | | | |
| 24 | 721 | | 313 | | 159 | | | |
| Oct. 1 | 746 | | 332 | | 167 | | | |
| 8 | 736 | | 327 | | 165 | | | |
| 15 | 734 | | 332 | | 165 | | | |
| 22 | 725 | | 315 | | 172 | | | |
| 29 | 728 | | 320 | | 180 | | | |
| Nov. 5 | 704 | | 302 | | 182 | | | |
| 12 | 698 | | 318 | | 162 | | | |
| 19 | 709 | | 309 | | 180 | | | |
| 26 | 580 | | 268 | | 137 | | | |
| Dec. 3 | 702 | | 320 | | 176 | | | |
| 10 | 732 | | 318 | | 199 | | | |
| 17 | 704 | | 331 | | 171 | | | |
| 24 | 625 | | 303 | | 144 | | | |

[1]Corresponding date—1983: January 1, 1983; 1984: December 31, 1983.

**Table 34—7-States cattle on feed, placements, and marketings**

| Year | On feed | Change previous year | Net placements | Change previous year | Marketings | Change previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | *1,000 head* | *Percent* |
| 1983 | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 8,316 | +15.5 | 1,364 | −0.9 | 1,628 | +7.0 |
| Feb. | 8,052 | +14.1 | 1,043 | −15.0 | 1,491 | +5.5 |
| Mar. | 7,604 | +10.7 | 1,267 | −25.6 | 1,603 | +3.6 |
| Apr. | 7,268 | +3.5 | 1,423 | −2.3 | 1,470 | +4.0 |
| May | 7,221 | +2.2 | 1,688 | −1.3 | 1,578 | +11.7 |
| June | 7,331 | −0.4 | 1,517 | +14.2 | 1,570 | +4.0 |
| July | 7,278 | +1.4 | 1,080 | −5.0 | 1,497 | +1.0 |
| Aug. | 6,861 | +0.4 | 1,494 | −10.5 | 1,651 | −2.2 |
| Sept. | 6,704 | −1.7 | 1,932 | +1.1 | 1,682 | +6.8 |
| Oct. | 6,951 | −2.8 | 2,358 | −6.3 | 1,626 | +6.5 |
| Nov. | 7,683 | −5.6 | 1,590 | −4.6 | 1,459 | −1.8 |
| Dec. | 7,814 | −6.1 | 1,617 | +13.7 | 1,425 | −0.3 |
| 1984 | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 8,006 | −3.7 | 1,480 | +8.5 | 1,569 | −3.6 |
| Feb. | 7,917 | −1.7 | 1,219 | +16.9 | 1,621 | +8.7 |
| Mar. | 7,515 | −1.2 | 1,647 | +30.0 | 1,594 | −0.6 |
| Apr. | 7,568 | +4.1 | | | | |

**Table 36.—13 States cattle on feed, placements, marketings, and other disappearance**

| Year | Cattle on feed[1] | Change previous year | Placed on feed | Change previous year | Fed cattle marketed | Change previous year | Other disappearance | Change previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | *1,000 head* | *Percent* | *1,000 head* | *Percent* |
| 1982:[2] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 9,028 | −8.3 | 5,572 | 15.7 | 5,443 | −2.1 | 339 | −22.6 |
| II | 8,818 | 1.8 | 5,781 | 3.4 | 5,209 | 1.9 | 409 | −17.7 |
| III | 8,981 | 3.9 | 5,846 | 10.8 | 5,773 | 5.9 | 254 | −1.2 |
| IV | 8,800 | 7.2 | 7,216 | 15.5 | 5,374 | 5.6 | 371 | 8.8 |
| Year | — | — | 24,415 | 11.3 | 21,799 | 2.7 | 1,373 | −10.1 |
| 1983:[2] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 10,271 | 13.8 | 5,027 | −9.8 | 5,694 | 4.6 | 451 | 33.0 |
| II | 9,153 | 3.8 | 5,886 | 1.8 | 5,522 | 6.0 | 450 | 10.0 |
| III | 9,067 | 1.0 | 5,586 | −4.4 | 5,890 | 2.0 | 298 | 17.3 |
| IV | 8,465 | | 7,252 | +.4 | 5,416 | .8 | 393 | 5.9 |
| Year | — | — | 23,771 | −2.6 | 22,545 | 3.4 | 1,592 | 16.0 |
| 1984: | | | | | | | | |
| I | 9,908 | −3.5 | 5,511 | +9.6 | 5,714 | +0.4 | 365 | −19.1 |
| II | 9,340 | +2.0 | | | | | | |

[1]Beginning of quarter. [2]Revised.

Overall, placements of cattle on feed for the first quarter in the 13 quarterly reporting States were up 10 percent from last year. In contrast to the substantial decline in feeding in the Corn Belt, areas where wheat or other lower-priced feed grains could be substituted for corn showed significant increases in placements and fed marketings compared with last year. Arizona, California, and Washington each had larger placements—43, 38, and 22 percent, respectively. Texas realized a 58-percent increase. A large part of the increased feedlot placements in Texas resulted from cattle taken off wheat pastures during the winter, in contrast to last year when more cattle were grazed on wheat pastures into late spring as a result of the PIK wheat grazeout provision.

**Table 35—Cattle on feed, placements, and marketings, 13 States**

| Item | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1984/1983 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1,000 head* | | *Percent change* |
| On feed Jan. 1 | 9,028 | 10,271 | 9,908 | −4 |
| Placements, Jan.-Mar. | 5,572 | 5,027 | 5,511 | +10 |
| Marketings, Jan.-Mar. | 5,443 | 5,694 | 5,714 | 0 |
| Other disappearance, Jan.-Mar. | 339 | 451 | 365 | −19 |
| On feed Apr. 1 | 8,818 | 9,153 | 9,340 | +2 |
| Steer & steer calves | 5,668 | 5,816 | 6,196 | +7 |
| -500 lb | 159 | 206 | 190 | −8 |
| 500-699 lb | 1,100 | 1,109 | 1,078 | −3 |
| 700-899 lb | 2,045 | 1,941 | 2,125 | +9 |
| 900-1,099 lb | 1,831 | 1,922 | 2,138 | +11 |
| 1,100 + lb | 533 | 638 | 665 | +4 |
| Heifers & heifer calves | 3,111 | 3,299 | 3,107 | +7 |
| -500 lb | 143 | 170 | 123 | −28 |
| 500-699 lb | 1,254 | 1,009 | 1,018 | +1 |
| 700-899 lb | 1,208 | 1,404 | 1,263 | −10 |
| 900 + lb | 506 | 716 | 703 | −2 |
| Cows | 39 | 38 | 37 | −3 |
| Marketings, Apr.-June | 5,209 | 5,527 | [1]5,690 | +3 |

[1]Intentions.

**Table 37—April 1 feeder cattle supply**

| Item | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1984/83 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1,000 head* | | *Percent change* |
| Calves less than 500 lb | | | | |
| On farms Jan. 1 | 28,827 | 28,375 | 27,701 | −2 |
| Slaughter Jan.-Mar. | 770 | 734 | 817 | +11 |
| On feed April 1 [1] | 355 | 441 | 367 | −17 |
| Total | 27,702 | 27,200 | 26,517 | −3 |
| Steers & heifers 500 lb + [2] | | | | |
| On farms Jan. 1 | 22,682 | 24,179 | 24,253 | +0 |
| Slaughter Jan.-Mar. | 6,768 | 6,843 | 6,923 | +1 |
| On feed April 1 [1] | 9,971 | 10,244 | 10,533 | +3 |
| Total | 5,943 | 7,092 | 6,797 | −4 |
| Total supply | 33,645 | 34,292 | 33,314 | −3 |

[1]Estimated U.S. steers and heifers. [2]Not including heifers for cow replacement.

Marketings of fed cattle through the winter quarter in the 13 major cattle feeding States were practically unchanged from 1983. Cold weather in January and wet, cold weather in March, particularly in the Corn Belt, held down marketings because of poor weight gains and producers' reluctance to accept a price discount for lighter weight or muddy cattle.

The number of cattle on feed on April 1 was 2 percent above a year earlier. A large percentage of the steers on feed were in the heavier weight groups, while heifers in the heavier weight groups were down from 1983. Heifers in the lighter weight group were up from a year earlier. Cattle on feed on April 1 in Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota were down 22, 16, and 14 percent, respectively, from a year earlier. Iowa, with 920,000 head of cattle on feed, had not had this low a number for this date since 1950, when there were 914,000 head on feed. However, placements increased substantially in other areas. Arizona and California each had a 12-percent increase, while the number increased 24 and 25 percent for Texas and Washington, respectively. This was the largest number of cattle on feed in Texas for this date since 1974.

### *Supplies of Feeder Cattle Down 3 Percent*

The increased number of cattle placed on feed during the winter quarter was paralleled by a 3-percent decline in the number of feeder cattle outside feedlots. Feeder calf supplies declined 2.5 percent; a smaller 1983 calf crop, combined with an 11-percent increase in calf slaughter during the first quarter, more than offset the reduced number of calves on feed. The total number of yearling cattle in the inventory on January 1 had increased slightly from last year. Steer and heifer slaughter was up 1 percent this winter and the number of yearlings on feed April 1 was 3 percent above a year earlier. This resulted in a 4-percent decline in the supply of yearling cattle outside feedlots.

### *Feeding Margins To Decline*

Cattle marketed during the winter quarter were placed on feed last summer and early fall. At that time, prices for yearling feeder cattle averaged $58 to $59 per cwt and corn prices averaged about $3.16 per bushel. These lower input prices, combined with fed cattle prices that rose $9 per cwt from September to March, translated into feeders realizing a positive return for cattle marketed last winter. High Plains cattle feeders had a net margin of $1 to $5 per cwt for cattle marketed from January to March. This was the first time cattle feeders covered all costs since last spring. By March, feeder cattle prices had risen $8 to $9 per cwt from early last fall, while corn increased about 45 cents per bushel for the same period.

The breakeven price to cover all costs for cattle placed on feed in April by High Plains cattle feeders will be in the low $70's. Fed cattle prices are not expected to be high enough during the second half of 1984 to cover the breakeven costs on these cattle marketed this fall. This negative feeding margin will likely result in fewer cattle placed on feed this spring.

### *Nonfed Beef Production To Decline Sharply*

Nonfed beef supplies are expected to drop sharply beginning in midspring as the grazing season begins. Nonfed

## Table 38—Corn Belt cattle feeding

| Purchased during / Marketed during | June / Dec. | July 83 / Jan. 84 | Aug. / Feb. | Sept. / Mar. | Oct. / Apr. | Nov. / May | Dec. / June | Jan. 84 / July | Feb. / Aug. | Mar. / Sept. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Selected costs at current rates[1] | | | | | | | | | |
| | *Dollars per head* | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 600-lb feeder steer | 388.50 | 360.78 | 351.48 | 349.86 | 361.20 | 366.00 | 381.90 | 390.36 | 398.70 | 404.52 |
| Transportation to feedlot (400 miles) | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 | 5.28 |
| Corn (45 bu) | 136.80 | 139.50 | 152.10 | 147.15 | 139.50 | 140.40 | 141.75 | 141.30 | 139.05 | 148.95 |
| Silage (1.7 tons) | 40.56 | 40.80 | 43.45 | 46.87 | 46.55 | 46.16 | 47.53 | 48.86 | 49.69 | 51.27 |
| Protein supplement (270 lb) | 34.56 | 34.70 | 36.18 | 38.61 | 38.74 | 38.61 | 38.88 | 39.56 | 37.26 | 36.86 |
| Hay (400 lb) | 10.50 | 10.30 | 10.50 | 13.60 | 14.40 | 14.00 | 14.80 | 15.80 | 16.70 | 16.50 |
| Labor (4 hours) | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.20 | 15.72 | 15.72 | 15.72 |
| Management[2] | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.60 | 7.86 | 7.86 | 7.86 |
| Vet medicine[3] | 5.18 | 5.17 | 5.19 | 5.20 | 5.20 | 5.22 | 5.26 | 5.30 | 5.32 | 5.32 |
| Interest on purchase (6 months) | 26.53 | 24.33 | 23.71 | 23.60 | 24.74 | 25.07 | 26.16 | 26.64 | 27.21 | 27.61 |
| Power, equip., fuel, shelter, depreciation[3] | 24.16 | 24.11 | 24.20 | 24.27 | 24.24 | 24.35 | 24.53 | 24.73 | 24.81 | 24.94 |
| Death loss (1% of purchase) | 3.88 | 3.61 | 3.51 | 3.50 | 3.61 | 3.66 | 3.82 | 3.90 | 3.99 | 4.05 |
| Transportation (100 miles) | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 | 2.31 |
| Marketing expenses | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 |
| Miscellaneous & indirect costs[3] | 10.45 | 10.43 | 10.47 | 10.49 | 10.48 | 10.53 | 10.61 | 10.69 | 10.73 | 10.79 |
| Total | 714.86 | 679.87 | 694.53 | 696.89 | 702.40 | 707.74 | 728.98 | 741.66 | 747.88 | 765.35 |
| Selling price required to cover: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feed and feeder costs (1,050 lb) $/cwt | 58.18 | 55.82 | 56.54 | 56.77 | 57.18 | 57.64 | 59.51 | 60.56 | 62.89 | 62.68 |
| Selling price required to cover all costs (1,050 lb) $/cwt | 68.08 | 65.47 | 66.15 | 66.37 | 66.90 | 67.40 | 69.43 | 70.63 | 71.24 | 72.89 |
| Feed costs per 100-lb gain $/cwt | 49.43 | 50.07 | 53.83 | 54.72 | 53.15 | 53.15 | 53.99 | 54.56 | 53.93 | 56.35 |
| Choice steers, Omaha $/cwt | 62.85 | 67.08 | 67.07 | 68.60 | | | | | | |
| Net margin $/cwt | −5.23 | +1.61 | +.92 | +2.23 | | | | | | |
| Prices: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feeder steer, Choice (600-700 lb) Kansas City $/cwt | 64.75 | 60.13 | 58.58 | 58.31 | 60.20 | 61.00 | 63.65 | 65.06 | 66.45 | 67.42 |
| Corn $/bu[4] | 3.04 | 3.10 | 3.38 | 3.27 | 3.10 | 3.12 | 3.15 | 3.14 | 3.09 | 3.31 |
| Hay $/ton[4] | 52.50 | 51.50 | 52.50 | 68.00 | 72.00 | 70.00 | 74.00 | 79.00 | 83.50 | 82.50 |
| Corn silage $/ton[5] | 23.86 | 24.00 | 25.56 | 27.57 | 27.38 | 27.15 | 27.96 | 28.74 | 29.23 | 30.16 |
| 32-36% protein supp. $/cwt[6] | 12.80 | 12.85 | 13.40 | 14.30 | 14.35 | 14.30 | 14.40 | 14.65 | 13.80 | 13.65 |
| Farm labor $/hour | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.80 | 3.93 | 3.93 | 3.93 |
| Interest rate, annual | 13.66 | 13.49 | 13.49 | 13.49 | 13.70 | 13.70 | 13.70 | 13.65 | 13.65 | 13.65 |
| Transportation rate $/cwt per 100 miles[7] | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 |
| Marketing expenses $/cwt[8] | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 3.35 |
| Index of prices paid by farmers (1910-14=100) | 1102 | 1100 | 1104 | 1107 | 1106 | 1111 | 1119 | 1128 | 1132 | 1138 |

[1]Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual for management, production level, and locality of operation. [2]Assumes 1 hour at twice the labor rate. [3]Adjusted monthly by the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, services, interest, taxes, and wage rates. [4]Average price received by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [5]Corn silage price derived from an equivalent price of 5 bushels corn and 330 lb hay. [6]Average price paid by farmers in Iowa and Illinois. [7]Converted from cents/mile for a 44,000-pound haul. [8]Yardage plus commission fees at a Midwest terminal market.

**Table 39—Great Plains custom cattle feeding**

| | Selected costs at current rates[1] | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Purchased during<br>Marketed during | June<br>Dec. | July 83<br>Jan. 84 | Aug.<br>Feb. | Sept.<br>Mar. | Oct.<br>Apr. | Nov.<br>May | Dec.<br>June | Jan. 84<br>July | Feb.<br>Aug. | Mar.<br>Sept. |
| | *Dollars per head* | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| 600-lb feeder steer | 373.50 | 358.32 | 357.48 | 346.32 | 345.24 | 372.00 | 396.72 | 403.92 | 409.86 | 407.82 |
| Transportation to feedlot (300 miles) | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 | 3.96 |
| Commission | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Feed: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Milo (1,500 lb) | 88.50 | 88.35 | 88.05 | 86.40 | 83.40 | 82.50 | 81.75 | 80.10 | 77.70 | 80.40 |
| Corn (1,500 lb) | 99.15 | 96.00 | 95.70 | 93.75 | 94.20 | 93.75 | 93.75 | 93.30 | 92.70 | 95.10 |
| Cottonseed meal (400 lb) | 50.00 | 52.00 | 54.00 | 58.00 | 62.00 | 62.00 | 64.00 | 68.00 | 64.00 | 64.00 |
| Alfalfa hay (800 lb) | 48.00 | 46.80 | 46.00 | 47.20 | 50.80 | 52.80 | 56.00 | 56.80 | 60.40 | 53.60 |
| Total feed cost | 285.65 | 283.15 | 283.75 | 285.35 | 290.40 | 291.05 | 295.50 | 298.20 | 294.80 | 293.10 |
| Feed handling & management charge | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 | 21.00 |
| Vet medicine | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Interest on feeder & 1/2 feed | 32.27 | 31.24 | 31.49 | 31.78 | 31.88 | 33.64 | 35.39 | 35.95 | 36.22 | 36.03 |
| Death loss (1.5 percent of purchase) | 5.60 | 5.37 | 5.36 | 5.19 | 5.18 | 5.58 | 5.95 | 6.06 | 6.15 | 6.12 |
| Marketing[2] | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. | f.o.b. |
| Total | 727.98 | 709.04 | 709.04 | 699.60 | 703.66 | 733.23 | 764.52 | 775.09 | 777.99 | 774.83 |
| Selling price required to cover:[3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Feed and feeder costs (1,056 lb) $/cwt | 62.42 | 60.75 | 60.72 | 59.82 | 60.19 | 62.79 | 65.55 | 66.49 | 66.73 | 66.38 |
| All costs $/cwt | 68.94 | 67.14 | 67.14 | 66.25 | 66.63 | 69.43 | 72.40 | 73.40 | 73.67 | 70.30 |
| Selling price $/cwt[4] | 67.16 | 69.49 | 68.43 | 71.00 | | | | | | |
| Net margin $/cwt | −1.78 | +2.35 | +1.29 | +4.75 | | | | | | |
| Cost per 100-lb gain: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Variable costs less interest $/cwt | 63.05 | 62.50 | 62.62 | 62.91 | 63.92 | 64.13 | 65.09 | 65.65 | 64.99 | 64.64 |
| Feed costs $/cwt | 57.13 | 56.63 | 56.75 | 57.07 | 58.08 | 58.21 | 59.10 | 59.64 | 58.96 | 58.62 |
| Prices: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice feeder steer 600-700 lb Amarillo $/cwt | 62.25 | 59.72 | 59.58 | 57.72 | 57.54 | 62.00 | 66.12 | 67.32 | 68.31 | 67.97 |
| Transportation rate $/cwt/100 miles[5] | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 | .22 |
| Commission fee $/cwt | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 | .50 |
| Milo $/cwt[6] | 5.90 | 5.89 | 5.87 | 5.76 | 5.56 | 5.50 | 5.45 | 6.34 | 5.18 | 5.36 |
| Corn $/cwt[6] | 6.61 | 6.40 | 6.38 | 6.25 | 6.28 | 6.25 | 6.25 | 6.22 | 6.18 | 6.34 |
| Cottonseed meal $/cwt[7] | 12.50 | 13.00 | 13.50 | 14.50 | 15.50 | 15.50 | 16.00 | 17.00 | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| Alfalfa hay $/ton[8] | 120.00 | 117.00 | 115.00 | 118.00 | 127.00 | 132.00 | 140.00 | 142.00 | 151.00 | 134.00 |
| Feed handling & management charge $/ton | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Interest, annual rate | 12.50 | 12.50 | 12.75 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 | 13.00 |

[1]Represents only what expenses would be if all selected items were paid for during the period indicated. The feed ration and expense items do not necessarily coincide with experience of individual feedlots. For individual use, adjust expenses and prices for management, production level, and locality of operation. Steers are assumed to gain 500 lbs in 180 days at 2.8 lbs per day with feed conversion of 8.4 lbs per pound gain. [2]Most cattle sold f.o.b. at the feedlot with 4- percent shrink. [3]Sale weight 1,056 lbs (1,100 lbs less 4-percent shrink). [4]Choice slaughter steers, 900-1100 lbs, Texas-New Mexico direct. [5]Converted from cents per mile for a 44,000-lb haul. [6]Texas Panhandle elevator price plus $0.15/cwt handling and transportation to feedlots. [7]Average prices paid by farmers in Texas. [8]Average price received by farmers in Texas plus $30/ton handling and transportation to feedlots.

**Table 40—Feeder steer prices consistent with break-even, given corn and fed steer prices[1]**

| Corn | Choice steers, $/cwt | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 55 | 60 | 65 | 70 | 75 |
| *$/bu* | *Feeder steers, $/cwt* | | | | |
| 2.50 | 43 | 52 | 61 | 70 | 79 |
| 2.75 | 41 | 50 | 59 | 68 | 76 |
| 3.00 | 39 | 48 | 57 | 65 | 74 |
| 3.25 | 37 | 46 | 54 | 63 | 72 |
| 3.50 | 35 | 43 | 52 | 61 | 70 |
| 3.75 | 31 | 41 | 50 | 59 | 68 |

[1]Assuming all other costs at March 1984 levels. Assumes milo equals 92 percent of the corn feeding value. (See Great Plains custom cattle feeding table.)

beef supplies have been large since mid-1983 when a drought throughout the Plains and Eastern States forced additional culling of the beef herd. Cow slaughter for second-half 1983 was 7 percent over 1982 after declining 1 percent during the first half. Producers culled older cows closely while at the same time, a larger number of heifers calved and entered the herd in 1983. The younger herd, coupled with a potentially good grazing season this year and replenishment of forage supplies will decrease the incentive to continue high rates of cow slaughter in second-half 1984. Cow slaughter could decline 12 to 16 percent below the large year-earlier levels. However, hot, dry weather in the Southwest could pose a problem for that region and force further reduction of beef herds or force the movement of more productive cows to other areas with adequate forage supplies.

Cattle on feed on April 1 in the 13 States were up 2 percent, suggesting supplies of fed cattle will be 2 to 3 percent above a year ago through early summer, but near the winter fed slaughter level. Fed cattle marketings plus the larger nonfed slaughter from year-ago levels this spring will result in a 2-percent rise in beef production from a year earlier. However, production is expected to decline 1 percent from the large winter level, due primarily to reduced nonfed slaughter. In second-half 1984, modestly declining fed slaughter along with a sharp reduction in nonfed slaughter will push beef production down 3 to 5 percent in the summer and 6 to 8 percent this fall, compared with year-earlier levels. Processing beef supplies will be reduced sharply, and more of the less desirable fed beef cuts will likely be processed this year.

### *Fed Cattle Prices To Average In the Mid-60's*

Fed steer prices at Omaha averaged $67.86 per cwt in April. Prices will likely decline only modestly in May or June despite continued large fed cattle marketings, because reductions of hog and nonfed cattle slaughter will help hold down the impact of these larger fed beef supplies. Improved consumer purchasing power and the summer barbeque season will also be supportive. Prices this spring may average $66 to $69 per cwt. With continued large reductions in pork and nonfed beef supplies in second-half 1984 and only modest declines in fed cattle marketings, Choice prices in the second half may average $64 to $69 with prices weakening somewhat as total meat supplies rise seasonally during late summer-early fall.

The effect of higher grain prices on feeder cattle prices will be about offset by increased demand for stocker cattle and the reduced feeder cattle supply. Prices will likely average $65 to $69 this spring and they could advance contraseasonally into fall, as expected lower grain prices in the Corn Belt increase competition for the reduced supply of feeder cattle.

Utility cow prices may have peaked this spring. Prices may average in the lower $40's this quarter, as well as in second-half 1984. Reduced culling from the now well-culled beef herd could result in even stronger prices. Processing meat supplies will drop sharply during midspring through the remainder of the year.

## CONSUMPTION AND EXPENDITURES

### *Expenditures Continue To Decline*

Consumer spending on red meat and poultry as a percent of disposable income continued to decline in 1983. In general, the proportion of income spent on food and beverages declined through the 1970's into the 1980's. Consumers purchased a fairly stable quantity of meat and other foods during this period, but did so with a smaller portion of their income. This allowed for improved living standards and increased purchases of nonfood items.

Total expenditures for red meat and poultry (beef, pork, broilers, and turkeys) rose 2 percent in nominal terms, from $334 in 1982 to $339 in 1983. The largest increase—8 percent—was for broilers, because a 3-percent rise in per capita broiler consumption coincided with an increase in prices. Although total red meat and poultry expenditures rose in 1983, they accounted for 3.41 percent of disposable income, down from 3.57 percent in 1982.

Total expenditures on red meat and poultry are expected to remain stable in the first half of 1984. Declining per capita consumption should further reduce the proportion of income spent on these meats during the second half.

### *Per Capita Meat Consumption*

Per capita consumption of red meat and poultry in 1983 increased 3 percent from a year earlier. Beef consumption (retail weight) rose nearly 2 pounds per person, and pork consumption increased 3 pounds. Pork consumption posted its biggest year-to-year gain—12 percent—in the fourth quarter. Poultry consumption was 2 percent above year-ago levels, with most of the increase occurring in the first half. Per capita consumption of broilers was 6 percent higher in the first half, while consumption in the second half remained even with a year earlier. Turkey consumption increased 4 percent in 1983, with most of the rise in the first half.

Per capita red meat and poultry consumption in 1984 is expected to decrease 2 to 3 percent from 1983. Beef consumption may fall 2 to 3 percent, and pork around 5 to 6 percent. However, poultry consumption may increase 1 percent, as use of broilers rises.

Per capita red meat and poultry consumption during the second quarter may be 2 percent below a year earlier. The largest drop will be in pork, with a year-over-year decline of about 3 percent. Beef consumption is expected

to fall around 1 percent, while broiler consumption is forecast to be unchanged. In second-half 1984, pork consumption may decline 10 to 13 percent, while beef consumption drops 3 to 6 percent. Broiler producers are already expanding in reaction to the likelihood of smaller red meat supplies, and consumption is likely to rise 2 to 5 percent. Turkey consumption may be about unchanged.

### *Retail Price Expectations*

Retail prices for Choice beef in the first quarter of 1984 averaged $2.43 a pound, up 2 percent from the $2.38 of a year earlier. Pork prices averaged $1.62, an 11-percent decrease from $1.83 in first-quarter 1983. Compared with last year, pork supplies were 8 percent larger during first-quarter 1984.

Increases in prices of fed cattle from October 1983 through January 1984 began to be reflected in higher retail prices in the first quarter of 1984. Retail price increases were accompanied by a widening in the farm-to-retail price spread from December to February. Similarly, hog prices increased from November 1983 through January 1984. Retail prices from December through first-quarter 1984 also rose, accompanied by a widening of the farm-to-retail spread.

Second-quarter retail beef prices are expected to average about 1 percent above a year ago. Retail prices for Choice beef may average in the upper $2.40's, while retail pork prices are expected to average about $1.70 a pound. The farm-to-retail spreads for beef and pork will likely widen this spring, as retail prices continue to rise from low fall averages. The farm-to-retail price spread typically narrows from the fall into the spring of each year.

Retail beef prices in the second half of 1984 are expected to remain stable and should average $2.45 to $2.50 a pound for the year, a 4-percent increase from a year earlier. Retail pork prices should continue to increase in the second half as supplies drop well below year-ago levels. For the year, retail pork prices may average about 6 percent higher than in 1983.

**Table 41 — Expenditure per person for red meat and poultry[1]**

| Year and Quarter | Beef | | Pork | | Red meat | | Broilers | | Turkeys | | Poultry | | Total[2] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures | Percent of Income | Expenditures- | Percent of Income |
| | | | | | | | *Dollars* | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 44.16 | 2.51 | 22.56 | 1.28 | 66.71 | 3.79 | 7.81 | 0.44 | 1.29 | 0.07 | 9.10 | 0.52 | 75.81 | 4.30 |
| II | 44.74 | 2.49 | 22.90 | 1.28 | 67.64 | 3.77 | 8.83 | 0.49 | 1.73 | 0.10 | 10.56 | 0.59 | 78.20 | 4.36 |
| III | 43.05 | 2.33 | 21.98 | 1.19 | 65.04 | 3.52 | 8.23 | 0.45 | 2.07 | 0.11 | 10.30 | 0.56 | 75.33 | 4.08 |
| IV | 44.40 | 2.35 | 23.74 | 1.26 | 68.15 | 3.60 | 7.39 | 0.39 | 3.73 | 0.20 | 11.13 | 0.59 | 79.27 | 4.19 |
| Year | 176.36 | 2.42 | 91.18 | 1.25 | 267.54 | 3.67 | 32.26 | 0.44 | 8.82 | 0.12 | 41.09 | 0.56 | 308.62 | 4.23 |
| 1980 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 44.45 | 2.28 | 22.99 | 1.18 | 67.44 | 3.47 | 8.07 | 0.41 | 1.60 | 0.08 | 9.67 | 0.50 | 77.11 | 3.96 |
| II | 43.50 | 2.22 | 21.97 | 1.12 | 65.47 | 3.34 | 8.06 | 0.41 | 1.69 | 0.09 | 9.75 | 0.50 | 75.22 | 3.83 |
| III | 46.39 | 2.30 | 23.00 | 1.14 | 69.39 | 3.44 | 8.90 | 0.44 | 2.32 | 0.12 | 11.22 | 0.56 | 80.61 | 3.99 |
| IV | 47.49 | 2.29 | 26.56 | 1.28 | 74.05 | 3.57 | 8.66 | 0.42 | 3.85 | 0.19 | 12.51 | 0.60 | 86.56 | 4.17 |
| Year | 181.83 | 2.27 | 94.52 | 1.18 | 276.35 | 3.45 | 33.69 | 0.42 | 9.46 | 0.12 | 43.15 | 0.54 | 319.50 | 3.99 |
| 1981 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 45.84 | 2.16 | 24.83 | 1.17 | 70.67 | 3.32 | 8.94 | 0.42 | 1.57 | 0.07 | 10.51 | 0.49 | 81.18 | 3.82 |
| II | 44.36 | 2.05 | 22.82 | 1.06 | 67.18 | 3.11 | 9.09 | 0.42 | 1.87 | 0.09 | 10.96 | 0.51 | 78.14 | 3.61 |
| III | 47.40 | 2.14 | 24.16 | 1.09 | 71.56 | 3.23 | 9.58 | 0.43 | 2.54 | 0.11 | 12.12 | 0.55 | 83.69 | 3.77 |
| IV | 46.56 | 2.06 | 26.87 | 1.19 | 73.43 | 3.25 | 8.32 | 0.37 | 4.26 | 0.19 | 12.58 | 0.56 | 86.01 | 3.80 |
| Year | 184.16 | 2.10 | 98.68 | 1.13 | 282.84 | 3.23 | 35.93 | 0.41 | 10.24 | 0.12 | 46.00 | 0.53 | 329.01 | 3.75 |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 44.64 | 1.94 | 24.54 | 1.07 | 69.18 | 3.01 | 8.66 | 0.38 | 1.63 | 0.07 | 10.29 | 0.45 | 79.47 | 3.46 |
| II | 46.45 | 1.99 | 24.99 | 1.07 | 71.44 | 3.06 | 9.32 | 0.40 | 1.90 | 0.08 | 11.22 | 0.48 | 82.66 | 3.55 |
| III | 49.86 | 2.11 | 25.66 | 1.09 | 75.52 | 3.20 | 9.52 | 0.40 | 2.53 | 0.11 | 12.05 | 0.51 | 87.57 | 3.71 |
| IV | 46.37 | 1.94 | 28.18 | 1.18 | 74.55 | 3.12 | 8.35 | 0.35 | 3.97 | 0.17 | 12.32 | 0.52 | 86.87 | 3.63 |
| Year | 187.40 | 2.00 | 103.49 | 1.10 | 290.89 | 3.10 | 35.83 | 0.38 | 10.02 | 0.11 | 45.85 | 0.49 | 336.74 | 3.59 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 45.68 | 1.89 | 26.54 | 1.10 | 72.22 | 2.99 | 8.82 | 0.37 | 1.93 | 0.08 | 10.75 | 0.45 | 82.97 | 3.43 |
| II | 47.30 | 1.92 | 26.35 | 1.07 | 73.65 | 2.99 | 9.33 | 0.38 | 2.04 | 0.08 | 11.37 | 0.46 | 85.02 | 3.46 |
| III | 48.87 | 1.94 | 25.47 | 1.01 | 74.34 | 2.95 | 9.62 | 0.38 | 2.29 | 0.09 | 11.91 | 0.47 | 86.25 | 3.43 |
| IV | 45.53 | 1.77 | 27.01 | 1.05 | 72.54 | 2.82 | 9.21 | 0.36 | 4.00 | 0.16 | 13.21 | 0.52 | 85.75 | 3.33 |
| Year | 187.41 | 1.88 | 105.63 | 1.06 | 293.04 | 2.94 | 37.04 | 0.37 | 10.27 | 0.10 | 47.31 | 0.47 | 340.35 | 3.41 |

[1]Red meat includes beef and pork only, poultry includes broilers and turkeys only. [2]Total includes beef, pork, broilers, and turkeys only.

**Table 42—Total red meat supply and utilization by quarters, carcass and retail weight, 1983-84[1]**

| Year | Commercial production | Farm production | Beginning stocks | Imports | Total supply | Exports | Shipments | Military purchases | Ending stocks | Total disappearance | Per capita disappearance: Carcass weight | Per capita disappearance: Retail weight | Population |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million lbs* | | | | | | | | | | *Pounds* | | *Millions* |
| Beef: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 5,527.00 | 64.00 | 294.00 | 527.89 | 6,412.89 | 66.81 | 10.35 | 28.00 | 299.00 | 6,008.73 | 25.98 | 19.22 | 231.30 |
| II | 5,556.00 | 27.00 | 299.00 | 516.67 | 6,398.67 | 61.96 | 10.27 | 34.00 | 254.00 | 6,038.44 | 26.05 | 19.28 | 231.80 |
| III | 6,015.00 | 28.00 | 254.00 | 539.04 | 6,836.04 | 71.62 | 9.14 | 34.00 | 268.00 | 6,453.28 | 27.77 | 20.55 | 232.40 |
| IV | 5,962.00 | 64.00 | 268.00 | 347.47 | 6,641.47 | 71.71 | 10.47 | 25.00 | 325.00 | 6,209.29 | 26.68 | 19.74 | 233.00 |
| Year | 23,060.00 | 183.00 | 294.00 | 1,931.07 | 25,468.07 | 272.10 | 40.23 | 121.00 | 325.00 | 24,709.74 | 106.48 | 78.80 | 232.10 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 5,708.00 | 64.00 | 325.00 | | | 40.04 | | 24.00 | 327.00 | | | | 233.40 |
| Pork: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 3,483.00 | 29.00 | 219.00 | 179.52 | 3,910.52 | 44.00 | 34.27 | 22.00 | 235.00 | 3,575.25 | 15.45 | 14.53 | 231.30 |
| II | 3,771.00 | 12.00 | 235.00 | 175.79 | 4,193.79 | 71.78 | 31.73 | 25.00 | 280.00 | 3,785.28 | 16.33 | 15.35 | 231.80 |
| III | 3,657.00 | 12.00 | 280.00 | 169.08 | 4,118.08 | 42.48 | 27.78 | 21.00 | 210.00 | 3,816.82 | 16.43 | 15.44 | 232.40 |
| IV | 4,206.00 | 29.00 | 210.00 | 177.22 | 4,622.22 | 61.06 | 47.82 | 21.00 | 301.00 | 4,191.34 | 18.01 | 16.93 | 233.00 |
| Year | 15,117.00 | 82.00 | 219.00 | 701.61 | 16,119.61 | 219.32 | 141.60 | 89.00 | 301.00 | 15,368.69 | 66.22 | 62.25 | 232.10 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 3,737.00 | 29.00 | 301.00 | | | 49.03 | | 20.00 | 348.00 | | | | 233.40 |
| Lamb and mutton: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 93.00 | 2.00 | 9.00 | 4.33 | 108.33 | .27 | .72 | 0.00 | 8.00 | 99.34 | .43 | .38 | 231.30 |
| II | 89.00 | 2.00 | 8.00 | 5.89 | 104.89 | .49 | .87 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 94.53 | .40 | .36 | 231.80 |
| III | 94.00 | 2.00 | 9.00 | 5.99 | 110.99 | .24 | .34 | 0.00 | 9.00 | 101.41 | .43 | .39 | 232.40 |
| IV | 91.00 | 2.00 | 9.00 | 2.56 | 104.56 | .45 | .29 | 0.00 | 11.00 | 92.82 | .40 | .35 | 233.00 |
| Year | 367.00 | 8.00 | 9.00 | 18.77 | 402.77 | 1.45 | 2.22 | 0.00 | 11.00 | 388.10 | 1.66 | 1.48 | 232.10 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 98.00 | 2.00 | 11.00 | | | .45 | | 0.00 | 8.00 | | | | 233.40 |
| Veal: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 103.00 | 9.00 | 7.00 | 8.54 | 127.54 | .98 | .18 | 2.00 | 7.00 | 117.38 | .51 | .42 | 231.30 |
| II | 98.00 | 3.00 | 7.00 | 5.19 | 113.19 | 1.13 | .17 | 3.00 | 7.00 | 101.89 | .44 | .36 | 231.80 |
| III | 110.00 | 4.00 | 7.00 | 2.44 | 123.44 | 1.10 | .42 | 1.00 | 9.00 | 111.92 | .48 | .40 | 232.40 |
| IV | 117.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 2.38 | 137.38 | .85 | .32 | 1.00 | 9.00 | 126.21 | .54 | .45 | 233.00 |
| Year | 428.00 | 25.00 | 7.00 | 18.55 | 478.55 | 4.06 | 1.09 | 7.00 | 9.00 | 457.40 | 1.97 | 1.64 | 232.10 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 115.00 | 9.00 | 9.00 | | | 1.13 | | 0.00 | 10.00 | | | | 233.40 |
| Total red meat: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 9,206.00 | 104.00 | 529.00 | 720.28 | 10,559.28 | 112.06 | 45.52 | 52.00 | 549.00 | 9,800.70 | 42.37 | 34.55 | 231.30 |
| II | 9,514.00 | 44.00 | 549.00 | 703.54 | 10,810.54 | 135.36 | 43.04 | 62.00 | 550.00 | 10,029.14 | 43.22 | 35.35 | 231.80 |
| III | 9,876.00 | 46.00 | 550.00 | 716.55 | 11,188.55 | 115.44 | 37.68 | 56.00 | 496.00 | 10,483.43 | 45.11 | 36.78 | 232.40 |
| IV | 10,376.00 | 104.00 | 496.00 | 529.63 | 11,505.63 | 134.07 | 58.90 | 47.00 | 646.00 | 10,619.66 | 45.63 | 37.48 | 233.00 |
| Year | 38,972.00 | 298.00 | 529.00 | 2,670.00 | 42,469.00 | 496.93 | 185.14 | 217.00 | 646.00 | 40,923.93 | 176.33 | 144.16 | 232.10 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 9,658.00 | 104.00 | 646.00 | | | 140.65 | | 44.00 | 693.00 | | | | 233.40 |

[1]Totals may not add due to rounding. [2]Revised. [3]Preliminary.

**Table 43—Young chicken supply and utilization, 1982-84**

| Year | Total production[1] | Beginning stocks | Total supply[2] | Ending stocks | Exports and shipments | Military | Civilian disappearance | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Total[2] | Per capita |
| | Million pounds | | | | | | | Pounds |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | |
| I | 2,919.8 | 32.6 | 2,952.4 | 27.0 | 171.3 | 6.8 | 2,747.4 | 12.0 |
| II | 3,145.6 | 27.0 | 3,172.7 | 21.8 | 178.7 | 13.1 | 2,959.1 | 12.9 |
| III | 3,164.2 | 21.8 | 3,186.0 | 17.4 | 138.3 | 8.3 | 3,022.0 | 13.1 |
| IV | 2,945.1 | 17.4 | 2,962.5 | 22.3 | 160.3 | 5.9 | 2,774.0 | 12.0 |
| Year | 12,174.7 | 32.6 | 12,207.3 | 22.3 | 648.5 | 34.0 | 11,502.5 | 50.0 |
| 1983[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 3,062.3 | 22.3 | 3,084.6 | 20.9 | 147.0 | 7.8 | 2,908.9 | 12.6 |
| II | 3,275.8 | 20.9 | 3,296.7 | 20.8 | 141.8 | 8.8 | 3,125.3 | 13.5 |
| III | 3,138.5 | 20.8 | 3,159.3 | 26.0 | 132.0 | 9.2 | 2,992.0 | 12.9 |
| IV | 2,923.8 | 26.0 | 2,949.8 | 21.2 | 142.7 | 7.1 | 2,778.7 | 11.9 |
| Year | 12,400.4 | 22.3 | 12,422.7 | 21.2 | 563.6 | 33.0 | 11,804.9 | 50.9 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | |

[1]Total production is estimated by multiplying the federally inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual federally inspected slaughter. The ratio for 1983 is the same as in 1982. [2]Totals may not add due to rounding. [3]Preliminary.

**Table 44—Mature chicken supply and utilization, 1982-84[1]**

| Year | Supply | | | | Utilization | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Domestic disappearance | | |
| | | | | | | | Civilian | |
| | Total production | Beginning stocks | Total supply | Ending stocks | Exports and shipments | Military | Total | Per capita |
| | Million pounds | | | | | | | Pounds[2] |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | |
| I | 189.0 | 116.5 | 305.5 | 113.0 | 7.4 | .4 | 184.7 | .8 |
| II | 200.3 | 113.0 | 313.3 | 113.5 | 7.2 | 1.1 | 191.5 | .8 |
| III | 176.5 | 113.5 | 289.9 | 103.8 | 5.1 | .4 | 180.6 | .8 |
| IV | 178.7 | 103.8 | 282.5 | 112.7 | 6.6 | .3 | 162.9 | .7 |
| Year | 744.5 | 116.5 | 861.0 | 112.7 | 26.3 | 2.2 | 719.7 | 3.1 |
| 1983[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 207.0 | 112.7 | 319.7 | 115.2 | 5.3 | 2.0 | 197.2 | .8 |
| II | 188.5 | 115.2 | 303.7 | 123.2 | 7.2 | .4 | 172.8 | .7 |
| III | 170.7 | 123.2 | 293.9 | 113.0 | 8.6 | .5 | 171.8 | .7 |
| IV | 149.2 | 113.0 | 262.2 | 91.6 | 6.7 | .3 | 163.6 | .7 |
| Year | 715.4 | 112.7 | 828.1 | 91.6 | 27.9 | 3.2 | 705.5 | 3.0 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | |

[1]Totals may not add due to rounding. [2]Calculated from unrounded data. [3]Preliminary.

## Table 45—Turkey supply and utilization, 1982-84

| Year | Total production[1] | Beginning stocks | Total supply[2] | Ending stocks | Exports and shipments | Military | Civilian consumption: Total[2] | Civilian consumption: Per capita[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million pounds* | | | | | | | *Pounds* |
| 1982[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | 417.9 | 238.4 | 656.3 | 232.8 | 17.8 | 2.3 | 403.4 | 1.8 |
| II | 538.0 | 232.8 | 770.8 | 281.7 | 10.9 | 2.2 | 476.1 | 2.1 |
| III | 775.4 | 281.7 | 1,057.1 | 435.8 | 9.9 | 4.6 | 606.8 | 2.6 |
| IV | 774.2 | 435.8 | 1,210.0 | 203.9 | 17.1 | 3.1 | 985.9 | 4.3 |
| Year | 2,505.5 | 238.4 | 2,743.9 | 203.9 | 55.6 | 12.1 | 2,472.3 | 10.7 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | |
| I | 474.7 | 203.9 | 678.6 | 185.3 | 11.8 | 2.2 | 479.3 | 2.1 |
| II | 597.3 | 185.3 | 782.6 | 255.7 | 11.4 | 3.3 | 512.2 | 2.2 |
| III | 781.5 | 255.7 | 1,037.2 | 432.2 | 14.5 | 5.3 | 585.2 | 2.5 |
| IV | 780.2 | 432.2 | 1,212.4 | 161.8 | 16.2 | 2.6 | 1,031.8 | 4.4 |
| Year | 2,633.7 | 203.9 | 2,837.6 | 161.8 | 53.8 | 13.4 | 2,608.5 | 11.2 |
| 1984[3] | | | | | | | | |
| I | | | | | | | | |

[1]Total production is estimated by multiplying the inspected slaughter by the ratio of the annual total production to the annual inspected slaughter. The ratio used in 1983 is the same as in 1982. [2]Totals may not add due to rounding. [3]Preliminary.

## Table 46—Total red meat and poultry supply and utilization, by quarters[1]

| Year | Total production | Beginning stocks | Imports | Total supply | Exports and shipments | Military | Ending stocks | Total civilian disappearance | Per capita disappearance |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Million pounds* | | | | | | | | *Pounds* |
| 1982 | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 12,980 | 929 | 501 | 14,409 | 358 | 63 | 876 | 13,112 | 49.5 |
| II | 13,028 | 876 | 711 | 14,615 | 395 | 84 | 887 | 13,248 | 50.1 |
| III | 13,329 | 887 | 826 | 15,042 | 293 | 81 | 1,004 | 13,663 | 51.3 |
| IV | 13,666 | 1,004 | 551 | 15,221 | 363 | 57 | 868 | 13,933 | 52.4 |
| Year | 53,003 | 929 | 2,589 | 56,520 | 1,410 | 286 | 868 | 53,956 | 203.3 |
| 1983[2] | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 13,054 | 868 | 720 | 14,642 | 322 | 64 | 870 | 13,386 | 50.1 |
| II | 13,620 | 870 | 704 | 15,194 | 339 | 74 | 950 | 13,830 | 51.8 |
| III | 14,013 | 950 | 717 | 15,679 | 309 | 71 | 1,066 | 14,233 | 52.9 |
| IV | 14,333 | 1,067 | 530 | 15,930 | 359 | 57 | 921 | 14,593 | 54.5 |
| Year | 55,019 | 868 | 2,670 | 58,557 | 1,328 | 267 | 921 | 56,042 | 209.2 |

[1]Totals may not add due to rounding. [2]Preliminary.

## Table 47—Beef, Choice Yield Grade 3: Retail, carcass, and farm values, spreads, and farmers' share[1]

| Year | Retail price[2] | Gross carcass value[3] | Carcass by-product allow-ance[4] | Net carcass value[5] | Gross farm value[6] | Farm by-product allow-ance[7] | Net farm value[8] | Farm-retail spread: Total | Farm-retail spread: Carcass-retail | Farm-retail spread: Farm-carcass | Farmers' share[9] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cents per lb | | | | | | | | | | Percent |
| 1979 | 226.3 | 153.3 | 2.8 | 150.5 | 163.4 | 22.6 | 140.8 | 85.5 | 75.8 | 9.7 | 62 |
| 1980 | 237.6 | 157.7 | 2.3 | 155.4 | 161.9 | 16.9 | 145.0 | 92.6 | 82.2 | 10.4 | 61 |
| 1981[10] | 238.7 | 151.5 | 2.1 | 149.3 | 154.5 | 16.0 | 138.5 | 100.2 | 89.4 | 10.8 | 58 |
| 1982 | 242.5 | 152.8 | 2.1 | 150.7 | 155.5 | 15.0 | 140.5 | 102.0 | 91.8 | 10.2 | 58 |
| 1983 | 238.1 | 147.4 | 2.0 | 145.4 | 151.8 | 15.6 | 136.2 | 101.9 | 92.7 | 9.2 | 57 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 237.9 | 146.7 | 1.7 | 144.9 | 149.9 | 13.5 | 136.4 | 101.5 | 93.0 | 8.5 | 58 |
| II | 245.1 | 158.0 | 2.0 | 156.1 | 162.9 | 15.5 | 147.4 | 97.7 | 89.0 | 8.7 | 60 |
| III | 238.4 | 142.8 | 2.1 | 140.7 | 147.0 | 16.5 | 130.5 | 107.9 | 97.7 | 10.2 | 55 |
| IV | 231.1 | 142.0 | 2.0 | 140.0 | 147.4 | 16.8 | 130.7 | 100.4 | 91.1 | 9.3 | 57 |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 242.6 | 157.2 | 2.8 | 154.3 | 164.5 | 18.5 | 146.0 | 96.6 | 88.3 | 8.3 | 60 |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 239.3 | 158.7 | 2.8 | 155.9 | 164.1 | 18.0 | 146.1 | 93.2 | 83.4 | 9.8 | 61 |
| Feb. | 243.9 | 154.8 | 2.7 | 152.1 | 162.8 | 18.3 | 144.5 | 99.4 | 91.8 | 7.6 | 59 |
| Mar. | 244.6 | 158.0 | 3.0 | 155.0 | 166.7 | 19.2 | 147.5 | 97.1 | 89.6 | 7.5 | 60 |

[1]Revised series. [2]Estimated weighted-average price of retail cuts from Choice Yield Grade 3 carcass. [3]Value of carcass-quantity equivalent to 1 lb of retail cuts. A wholesale-carcass equivalent of 1.464 was used prior to 1970; it was increased gradually to 1.476 in 1976 and later years. [4]Portion of gross carcass value attributed to fat and bone trim. [5]Gross carcass value minus carcass byproduct allowance. [6]Market value to producer for 2.4 pounds of live animal, equivalent to 1 lb of retail cuts. [7]Portion of gross farm value attributed to edible and inedible byproducts. [8]Gross farm value minus farm byproduct allowance. [9]Percent net farm value is of retail price. [10]ERS data through May 1981, BLS series since June.

## Table 48—Pork: Retail, wholesale, and farm values, spreads, and farmers' share[1]

| Year | Retail price[2] | Wholesale value[3] | Gross farm value[4] | Byproduct allowance[5] | Net farm value[6] | Farm-retail spread: Total | Farm-retail spread: Wholesale-retail | Farm-retail spread: Farm-wholesale | Farmers' share[7] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cents per lb | | | | | | | | Percent |
| 1979 | 144.1 | 100.4 | 72.2 | 5.6 | 66.6 | 77.5 | 43.7 | 33.8 | 46 |
| 1980 | 139.4 | 98.0 | 68.3 | 5.1 | 63.2 | 76.2 | 41.4 | 34.8 | 45 |
| 1981[8] | 152.4 | 106.7 | 75.5 | 5.2 | 70.3 | 82.1 | 45.7 | 36.4 | 46 |
| 1982 | 175.4 | 121.8 | 94.3 | 6.3 | 88.0 | 87.4 | 53.6 | 33.8 | 50 |
| 1983 | 169.8 | 108.9 | 81.4 | 4.9 | 76.5 | 93.3 | 60.9 | 32.4 | 45 |
| 1983 | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 183.0 | 119.3 | 93.8 | 5.7 | 88.1 | 94.9 | 63.6 | 31.3 | 48 |
| II | 171.1 | 106.9 | 79.6 | 4.9 | 74.7 | 96.4 | 64.2 | 32.2 | 44 |
| III | 165.4 | 105.6 | 79.6 | 5.0 | 74.7 | 90.7 | 59.8 | 30.9 | 45 |
| IV | 159.8 | 103.8 | 72.8 | 4.3 | 68.5 | 91.3 | 56.0 | 35.3 | 43 |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | |
| I | 161.5 | 108.6 | 81.3 | 5.6 | 75.7 | 85.8 | 52.9 | 32.9 | 47 |
| 1984 | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 162.2 | 112.9 | 84.8 | 5.5 | 79.3 | 82.9 | 49.3 | 33.6 | 49 |
| Feb. | 162.9 | 109.2 | 79.0 | 5.4 | 73.6 | 89.3 | 53.7 | 35.6 | 45 |
| Mar. | 159.4 | 103.8 | 80.1 | 6.0 | 74.1 | 85.3 | 55.6 | 29.7 | 46 |

[1]Revised series. [2]Estimated weighted-average price of retail cuts from pork carcass. [3]Value of wholesale quantity equivalent to 1 lb of retail cuts. A wholesale-carcass equivalent of 1.06 is used for all years. [4]Market values to producer for 1.7 pounds of live animal, equivalent to 1 lb of retail cuts. [5]Portion of gross farm value attributable to edible and inedible byproducts. [6]Gross farm value minus byproduct allowance. [7]Percent net farm value is of retail price. [8]ERS data through May 1981, BLS series since June.

**Table 49—Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months**

| Year and item | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | *Dollars* | | | | | | |
| CHOICE BEEF: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ground chuck | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.79 | 1.80 | 1.77 | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.82 | 1.79 | 1.76 | 1.77 | 1.75 | 1.74 | 1.75 |
| 1983 | 1.75 | 1.77 | 1.76 | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.77 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.69 | 1.69 | 1.68 | 1.68 |
| 1984 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 1.75 | | | | | | | | | |
| Chuck roast, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.77 | 1.81 | 1.77 | 1.80 | 1.78 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.80 | 1.80 | 1.74 | 1.76 | 1.76 |
| 1983 | 1.75 | 1.78 | 1.79 | 1.85 | 1.85 | 1.76 | 1.74 | 1.69 | 1.71 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.65 |
| 1984 | 1.75 | 1.78 | 1.75 | | | | | | | | | |
| Round roast, boneless | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.58 | 2.62 | 2.61 | 2.65 | 2.72 | 2.77 | 2.71 | 2.62 | 2.62 | 2.56 | 2.58 | 2.59 |
| 1983 | 2.60 | 2.59 | 2.57 | 2.67 | 2.65 | 2.59 | 2.58 | 2.50 | 2.46 | 2.48 | 2.50 | 2.45 |
| 1984 | 2.62 | 2.69 | 2.68 | | | | | | | | | |
| Rib roast, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 3.12 | 3.07 | 3.07 | 3.07 | 3.20 | 3.36 | 3.39 | 3.36 | 3.31 | 3.25 | 3.19 | 3.21 |
| 1983 | 3.19 | 3.18 | 3.12 | 3.26 | 3.33 | 3.30 | 3.30 | 3.33 | 3.26 | 3.23 | 3.19 | 3.20 |
| 1984 | 3.45 | 3.44 | 3.42 | | | | | | | | | |
| Round steak, boneless | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.88 | 2.84 | 2.90 | 2.95 | 2.99 | 3.14 | 3.02 | 2.96 | 3.00 | 2.93 | 2.94 | 2.90 |
| 1983 | 2.92 | 2.94 | 2.91 | 2.96 | 3.04 | 2.95 | 2.94 | 2.85 | 2.81 | 2.82 | 2.83 | 2.81 |
| 1984 | 2.93 | 2.96 | 2.98 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sirloin steak, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.88 | 2.92 | 2.92 | 3.05 | 3.16 | 3.36 | 3.36 | 3.23 | 3.20 | 2.96 | 2.88 | 2.78 |
| 1983 | 2.84 | 2.94 | 2.95 | 3.10 | 3.20 | 3.23 | 3.22 | 3.18 | 3.11 | 3.00 | 2.98 | 2.92 |
| 1984 | 2.89 | 3.06 | 3.09 | | | | | | | | | |
| Chuck steak, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.74 | 1.78 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.87 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.89 | 1.84 | 1.77 | 1.76 | 1.80 |
| 1983 | 1.79 | 1.82 | 1.83 | 1.86 | 1.81 | 1.74 | 1.74 | 1.68 | 1.70 | 1.74 | 1.68 | 1.72 |
| 1984 | 1.75 | 1.80 | 1.78 | | | | | | | | | |
| T-Bone steak, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 3.62 | 3.59 | 3.61 | 3.77 | 3.90 | 4.11 | 4.13 | 4.05 | 3.94 | 3.79 | 3.69 | 3.56 |
| 1983 | 3.62 | 3.70 | 3.71 | 3.76 | 3.89 | 3.97 | 3.97 | 3.93 | 3.79 | 3.68 | 3.82 | 3.68 |
| 1984 | 3.83 | 3.86 | 3.86 | | | | | | | | | |
| Porterhouse steak, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 3.76 | 3.77 | 3.71 | 3.78 | 4.09 | 4.18 | 4.22 | 4.11 | 4.10 | 3.85 | 3.77 | 3.65 |
| 1983 | 3.74 | 3.66 | 3.81 | 3.92 | 3.90 | 4.12 | 4.09 | 4.11 | 3.94 | 3.78 | 3.66 | 3.79 |
| 1984 | 3.76 | 3.91 | 4.06 | | | | | | | | | |
| PORK | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bacon, sliced | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.75 | 1.81 | 1.82 | 1.89 | 1.98 | 2.07 | 2.10 | 2.20 | 2.36 | 2.33 | 2.19 | 2.13 |
| 1983 | 2.12 | 2.15 | 2.07 | 2.00 | 1.95 | 1.91 | 1.92 | 1.88 | 1.91 | 1.86 | 1.77 | 1.76 |
| 1984 | 1.81 | 1.88 | 1.80 | | | | | | | | | |
| Chops, center cut | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.20 | 2.21 | 2.18 | 2.25 | 2.33 | 2.43 | 2.50 | 2.51 | 2.54 | 2.53 | 2.52 | 2.43 |
| 1983 | 2.48 | 2.53 | 2.46 | 2.43 | 2.42 | 2.33 | 2.36 | 2.35 | 2.32 | 2.30 | 2.28 | 2.24 |
| 1984 | 2.41 | 2.36 | 2.34 | | | | | | | | | |
| Ham, rump or shank half | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.38 | 1.35 | 1.40 | 1.32 | 1.39 | 1.43 | 1.43 | 1.41 | 1.53 | 1.56 | 1.58 | 1.63 |
| 1983 | 1.60 | 1.55 | 1.58 | 1.43 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.31 | 1.28 | 1.25 | 1.31 |
| 1984 | 1.33 | 1.32 | 1.32 | | | | | | | | | |
| Ham, rump portion | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.25 | 1.28 | 1.31 | 1.26 | 1.34 | 1.30 | 1.38 | 1.37 | 1.45 | 1.55 | 1.54 | 1.58 |
| 1983[1] | 1.57 | 1.45 | 1.50 | 1.36 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.25 | 1.34 | 1.31 | 1.36 | 1.30 | 1.37 |
| Ham, shank portion | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.12 | 1.13 | 1.15 | 1.11 | 1.23 | 1.22 | 1.27 | 1.30 | 1.34 | 1.47 | 1.44 | 1.44 |
| 1983[1] | 1.46 | 1.31 | 1.36 | 1.14 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.15 | 1.17 | 1.13 | 1.20 | 1.15 | 1.18 |
| Shoulder roast, blade Boston | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.42 | 1.46 | 1.46 | 1.40 | 1.48 | 1.57 | 1.69 | 1.72 | 1.77 | 1.71 | 1.74 | 1.65 |
| 1983[1] | 1.69 | 1.63 | 1.60 | 1.63 | 1.49 | 1.52 | 1.53 | 1.47 | 1.46 | 1.39 | 1.42 | 1.37 |

Continued—

**Table 49—Average retail price of specified meat cuts, per pound, by months—Continued**

| Year and item | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Dollars* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sirloin roast, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.59 | 1.60 | 1.62 | 1.65 | 1.69 | 1.76 | 1.82 | 1.80 | 1.82 | 1.81 | 1.80 | 1.75 |
| 1983 | 1.78 | 1.79 | 1.76 | 1.69 | 1.69 | 1.70 | 1.64 | 1.68 | 1.66 | 1.60 | 1.57 | 1.52 |
| 1984 | 1.67 | 1.67 | 1.65 | | | | | | | | | |
| Shoulder picnic, bone in | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.10 | 1.09 | 1.08 | 1.12 | 1.11 | 1.14 | 1.18 | 1.19 | 1.22 | 1.20 | 1.18 | 1.18 |
| 1983 | 1.17 | 1.15 | 1.13 | 1.09 | 1.06 | 1.03 | 1.03 | .99 | .98 | .98 | 1.00 | .98 |
| 1984 | 1.04 | 1.03 | .98 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sausage, fresh, pork, loose | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.72 | 1.76 | 1.79 | 1.79 | 1.82 | 1.89 | 1.95 | 1.96 | 2.01 | 1.99 | 1.94 | 1.92 |
| 1983 | 1.95 | 1.97 | 1.96 | 1.95 | 1.97 | 1.97 | 1.87 | 1.84 | 1.77 | 1.76 | 1.73 | 1.72 |
| 1984 | 1.66 | 1.72 | 1.68 | | | | | | | | | |
| MISCELLANEOUS CUTS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ham, canned, 3 or 5 lbs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.56 | 2.59 | 2.57 | 2.54 | 2.60 | 2.62 | 2.66 | 2.66 | 2.67 | 2.75 | 2.80 | 2.82 |
| 1983 | 2.87 | 2.87 | 2.88 | 2.83 | 2.76 | 2.69 | 2.65 | 2.58 | 2.58 | 2.61 | 2.54 | 2.55 |
| 1984 | 2.59 | 2.59 | 2.58 | | | | | | | | | |
| Frankfurters, all meat | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 1.74 | 1.75 | 1.78 | 1.83 | 1.86 | 1.87 | 1.87 | 1.88 | 1.86 | 1.84 |
| 1983 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.86 | 1.84 | 1.83 | 1.80 | 1.81 | 1.81 | 1.76 | 1.77 | 1.76 | 1.76 |
| 1984 | 1.76 | 1.80 | 1.81 | | | | | | | | | |
| Bologna | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 2.08 | 2.09 | 2.15 | 2.16 | 2.18 | 2.25 | 2.29 | 2.28 | 2.23 | 2.27 | 2.30 | 2.24 |
| 1983 | 2.21 | 2.18 | 2.21 | 2.23 | 2.22 | 2.25 | 2.17 | 2.14 | 2.12 | 2.14 | 2.14 | 2.11 |
| 1984 | 2.07 | 2.09 | 2.12 | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef liver | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1982 | 1.00 | 1.02 | 1.05 | 1.05 | 1.04 | 1.03 | 1.04 | 1.01 | .99 | 1.00 | .99 | .99 |
| 1983 | .98 | .94 | .96 | .93 | 1.02 | 1.01 | 1.00 | 1.00 | .96 | .94 | .95 | .96 |
| 1984 | .96 | .96 | .96 | | | | | | | | | |

[1]The Bureau of Labor Statistics discontinued this series after December 1983 due to declines in the sample size.

**Table 50—Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat**

| Item | 1983 | | | | | | | | 1984 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July | Aug. | Sept. | III | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | IV | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | I |
| | *Dollars per cwt* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SLAUGHTER STEERS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 900-1100 lb | 62.22 | 61.27 | 59.19 | 60.89 | 59.58 | 59.41 | 62.85 | 60.61 | 67.08 | 67.07 | 68.60 | 67.58 |
| Good, 900-1100 lb | 57.16 | 56.05 | 54.82 | 56.01 | 55.20 | 54.55 | 57.15 | 55.63 | 59.68 | 60.11 | 62.48 | 60.76 |
| California, Choice 900-1100 lb | 62.88 | 60.40 | 57.69 | 60.32 | 60.19 | 60.50 | 66.25 | 62.31 | 68.19 | 67.70 | 69.56 | 68.48 |
| Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb | 63.41 | 62.32 | 59.68 | 61.80 | 60.20 | 60.82 | 66.25 | 62.42 | 69.50 | 67.71 | 70.08 | 69.10 |
| Texas, Choice 900-1100 lb | 63.76 | 62.37 | 59.68 | 61.94 | 60.71 | 61.31 | 67.16 | 63.06 | 69.49 | 68.43 | 71.00 | 69.64 |
| SLAUGHTER HEIFERS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, 900-1100 lb | 60.99 | 59.71 | 58.51 | 59.74 | 58.50 | 58.45 | 62.77 | 59.91 | 66.46 | 66.02 | 67.52 | 66.67 |
| Good, 700-900 lb | 56.99 | 54.74 | 53.52 | 55.08 | 53.66 | 53.55 | 57.32 | 54.84 | 59.41 | 59.07 | 61.49 | 59.99 |
| COWS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial | 40.75 | 39.39 | 38.00 | 39.38 | 37.98 | 34.68 | 34.16 | 35.61 | 34.70 | 40.47 | 44.31 | 39.83 |
| Utility | 41.14 | 39.63 | 37.75 | 39.51 | 37.42 | 34.14 | 33.58 | 35.05 | 33.26 | 39.69 | 44.01 | 38.99 |
| Cutter | 39.88 | 37.79 | 35.78 | 37.82 | 35.16 | 32.57 | 31.82 | 33.18 | 30.82 | 37.58 | 42.08 | 36.83 |
| Canner | 37.07 | 35.92 | 34.50 | 35.83 | 32.85 | 29.62 | 28.94 | 30.47 | 28.27 | 33.74 | 37.21 | 33.07 |
| VEALERS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, So. St. Paul | 75.00 | 75.00 | 73.38 | 74.46 | 66.75 | 67.50 | 67.50 | 67.25 | 64.94 | 77.50 | 77.50 | 73.31 |
| FEEDER STEERS:[1] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medium No. 1, 400-500 lb | 65.71 | 61.72 | 61.84 | 63.09 | 65.48 | 66.20 | 66.38 | 66.02 | 67.18 | 71.51 | 72.08 | 70.26 |
| Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb | 60.13 | 58.58 | 58.31 | 59.01 | 60.20 | 61.00 | 63.65 | 61.62 | 65.06 | 66.45 | 67.42 | 66.31 |
| All weights and grades | 58.21 | 57.21 | 55.81 | 57.08 | 56.97 | 58.12 | 61.00 | 58.70 | 64.39 | 65.97 | 66.30 | 65.55 |
| Amarillo: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb | 59.72 | 59.58 | 57.72 | 59.01 | 57.54 | 62.00 | 66.12 | 61.89 | 67.32 | 68.31 | 67.97 | 67.87 |
| Georgia auctions: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb | 56.83 | 55.50 | 54.00 | 55.44 | 54.00 | 57.20 | 57.33 | 56.18 | 60.38 | 62.90 | 61.88 | 61.72 |
| Medium No. 2, 400-500 lb | 56.75 | 55.10 | 53.12 | 54.99 | 53.88 | 57.90 | 58.33 | 56.70 | 58.38 | 62.40 | 60.62 | 60.47 |
| FEEDER HEIFERS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kansas City: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medium No. 1, 400-500 lb | 57.03 | 51.72 | 51.15 | 53.30 | 52.48 | 54.08 | 55.54 | 54.03 | 55.98 | 59.48 | 60.15 | 58.54 |
| Medium No. 1, 600-700 lb* | 55.01 | 53.02 | 51.64 | 53.22 | 52.22 | 52.91 | 56.70 | 53.94 | 58.19 | 59.79 | 60.28 | 59.42 |
| SLAUGHTER HOGS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barrows and gilts: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Omaha: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 1 & 2, 200-230 lb | 47.00 | 50.02 | 46.10 | 47.71 | 42.18 | 40.16 | 49.19 | 43.84 | 50.88 | 47.15 | 47.94 | 48.66 |
| All weights | 45.81 | 49.56 | 45.88 | 47.08 | 41.65 | 38.65 | 46.03 | 42.11 | 49.79 | 46.28 | 47.07 | 47.71 |
| Sioux City | 45.81 | 49.77 | 46.05 | 47.21 | 41.64 | 38.81 | 46.53 | 42.33 | 50.14 | 46.68 | 47.36 | 48.06 |
| 7 markets[2] | 45.66 | 49.35 | 45.70 | 46.90 | 41.38 | 38.79 | 46.37 | 42.18 | 49.91 | 46.31 | 46.83 | 47.68 |
| Sows: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 markets[2] | 34.86 | 38.03 | 40.48 | 37.79 | 36.76 | 32.95 | 38.53 | 36.08 | 44.97 | 44.27 | 45.66 | 44.97 |
| FEEDER PIGS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb (per hd.) | 21.24 | 24.01 | 22.96 | 22.74 | 22.27 | 24.54 | 27.65 | 24.82 | 33.61 | 43.48 | 50.12 | 41.40 |

Continued—

**Table 50—Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat—Continued**

| Item | 1983 | | | | | | | | 1984 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | July | Aug. | Sept. | III | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | IV | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | I |
| | *Dollars per cwt* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SLAUGHTER LAMBS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lambs, Choice, San Angelo | 50.75 | 51.30 | 50.88 | 50.98 | 54.44 | 57.94 | 60.50 | 57.63 | 60.62 | 58.75 | 58.50 | 59.29 |
| Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul | 50.74 | 48.88 | 48.74 | 49.45 | 53.85 | 54.50 | 57.62 | 55.32 | 56.60 | 56.82 | 57.50 | 56.97 |
| Ewes, Good, San Angelo | 17.00 | 14.45 | 11.62 | 14.36 | 13.13 | 17.17 | 18.33 | 16.21 | 20.00 | 30.40 | 22.88 | 24.43 |
| Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul | 13.00 | 10.50 | 10.01 | 11.17 | 9.55 | 9.12 | 11.00 | 9.89 | 12.50 | 13.72 | 17.68 | 14.63 |
| FEEDER LAMBS: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Choice, San Angelo | 44.38 | 43.62 | 42.94 | 43.65 | 49.81 | 57.69 | 60.00 | 55.83 | 59.50 | 60.15 | 60.00 | 59.88 |
| Choice, So. St. Paul | 45.75 | 41.68 | 42.68 | 43.37 | 46.60 | 50.15 | 52.05 | 49.60 | 55.20 | 58.10 | 55.20 | 56.17 |
| FARM PRICES: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef cattle | 54.80 | 54.20* | 52.30 | 53.77 | 51.70 | 51.20 | 54.60 | 52.50 | 57.10 | 59.70 | 61.70 | 59.50 |
| Calves | 60.30 | 57.40* | 56.10 | 57.93 | 57.10 | 59.20 | 60.60 | 58.97 | 60.90 | 63.90 | 63.70 | 62.83 |
| Hogs | 43.40 | 46.70* | 44.10 | 44.73 | 40.40 | 37.50 | 44.80 | 40.90 | 48.50 | 45.40 | 45.80 | 46.57 |
| Sheep | 16.20 | 15.50 | 12.80 | 14.83 | 13.70 | 15.10 | 16.40 | 15.07 | 18.20 | 19.60 | 18.70 | 18.83 |
| Lambs | 48.90* | 48.30* | 47.80 | 48.33 | 50.90 | 55.80 | 57.10 | 54.60 | 60.00 | 59.20 | 58.20 | 59.13 |
| MEAT PRICES: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wholesale: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Central U.S. markets | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb | 97.72 | 95.01 | 92.10 | 94.94 | 91.24 | 91.57 | 99.82 | 94.21 | 105.74 | 102.86 | 105.14 | 104.58 |
| Heifer beef, Choice 500-600 lb | 93.83 | 90.96 | 88.62 | 91.14 | 88.85 | 89.34 | 96.06 | 91.42 | 100.80 | 99.21 | 101.50 | 100.53 |
| Cow beef, Canner and Cutter | 81.21 | 81.58 | 75.27 | 79.35 | 71.54 | 67.99 | 70.41 | 69.98 | 70.63 | 79.45 | 83.62 | 77.90 |
| Pork loins, 8-14 lb[4] | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | 104.36 | 94.68 | 88.75 | 95.93 |
| Pork bellies, 12-14 lb | 59.06 | 65.72 | 55.30 | 60.03 | 49.10 | 50.86 | 54.59 | 51.52 | 65.03 | 54.68 | 56.04 | 58.58 |
| Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb | 65.04 | 72.81 | 74.21 | 70.69 | 73.66 | 77.26 | 88.11 | 79.68 | 70.44 | 68.80 | 78.00 | 72.41 |
| East Coast: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb | 119.69 | 114.53 | 111.21 | 115.14 | 125.00 | 127.00 | 131.25 | 127.75 | 131.38 | 132.90 | 131.71 | 132.00 |
| Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb | 119.08 | 114.40 | 115.00 | 116.16 | 125.00 | 127.00 | 131.25 | 127.75 | 131.25 | 126.50 | 123.38 | 127.04 |
| West Coast: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb | 101.71 | 97.15 | 93.81 | 97.56 | 95.44 | 95.05 | 104.81 | 98.43 | 108.20 | 106.67 | 108.30 | 107.72 |
| | *Cents per lb* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef, Choice | 242.0 | 238.6 | 234.7 | 238.4 | 231.8 | 231.1 | 230.3 | 231.1 | 239.3 | 243.9 | 244.6 | 242.6 |
| Pork | 166.6 | 165.7 | 163.9 | 165.4 | 162.3 | 159.0 | 158.1 | 159.8 | 162.2 | 162.9 | 159.4 | 161.5 |
| | *1967=100* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Price Indexes (BLS, 1967=100): | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Retail meats | 267.8 | 264.2 | 262.6 | 264.9 | 260.4 | 258.6 | 258.3 | 259.1 | 266.4 | 270.0 | 268.8 | 268.4 |
| Beef and veal | 275.8 | 270.7 | 268.0 | 271.5 | 266.2 | 265.7 | 266.0 | 266.0 | 274.9 | 280.9 | 279.9 | 278.6 |
| Pork | 251.2 | 249.6 | 250.2 | 250.3 | 246.4 | 241.1 | 240.3 | 242.6 | 250.8 | 250.6 | 248.6 | 250.0 |
| Other meats | 266.9 | 264.6 | 262.6 | 264.7 | 262.2 | 262.6 | 261.3 | 262.0 | 262.5 | 265.0 | 265.1 | 264.2 |
| Poultry | 198.1 | 200.5 | 204.4 | 201.0 | 199.6 | 201.7 | 209.8 | 203.7 | 217.5 | 225.5 | 223.2 | 222.1 |
| LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[3] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef steer-corn | 19.6 | 18.1 | 17.8 | 18.5 | 18.4 | 18.3 | 19.8 | 18.8 | 21.6 | 22.1 | 21.1 | 21.6 |
| Hog-corn | 14.4 | 14.6 | 13.8 | 14.3 | 12.9 | 11.9 | 14.5 | 13.1 | 16.0 | 15.3 | 14.5 | 15.3 |

[1]Reflects new feeder cattle grades. [2]St. Louis, N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, So. St. Joseph, So. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. [3]Bushels of No. 2 yellow corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds live weight. [4]Beginning January 1984 prices are 14-17 pounds.

## Table 51 —Selected marketings, slaughter, and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

| Item | 1983* | | | | | | 1984 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sept. | III | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | IV | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | I |
| | | | | | 1,000 head | | | | | |
| FEDERALLY INSPECTED: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slaughter | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 3,156 | 9,114 | 3,099 | 2,899 | 2,994 | 8,992 | 2,951 | 2,836 | 2,954 | 8,741 |
| Steers | 1,437 | 4,318 | 1,372 | 1,296 | 1,404 | 4,072 | 1,392 | 1,367 | 1,447 | 4,206 |
| Heifers | 984 | 2,766 | 936 | 829 | 807 | 2,572 | 777 | 789 | 830 | 2,396 |
| Cows | 667 | 1,821 | 724 | 712 | 731 | 2,167 | 736 | 629 | 618 | 1,983 |
| Bulls and stags | 67 | 210 | 67 | 61 | 52 | 180 | 47 | 51 | 59 | 157 |
| Calves | 258 | 734 | 259 | 266 | 262 | 787 | 253 | 236 | 264 | 753 |
| Sheep and lambs | 595 | 1,677 | 580 | 510 | 536 | 1,626 | 540 | 548 | 586 | 1,674 |
| Hogs | 7,268 | 20,712 | 7,829 | 8,152 | 7,515 | 23,496 | 6,947 | 6,591 | 7,578 | 21,116 |
| | | | | | Percent | | | | | |
| Percentage sows | 6.3 | 6.8 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| | | | | | Pounds | | | | | |
| Average live weight per head: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 1,073 | 1,071 | 1,077 | 1,086 | 1,077 | 1,080 | 1,072 | 1,079 | 1,078 | 1,077 |
| Calves | 207 | 210 | 212 | 205 | 206 | 208 | 218 | 223 | 218 | 220 |
| Sheep and lambs | 109 | 110 | 110 | 112 | 111 | 111 | 113 | 115 | 116 | 115 |
| Hogs | 240 | 242 | 243 | 246 | 244 | 244 | 242 | 241 | 240 | 241 |
| Average dressed weight: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 638 | 636 | 637 | 637 | 628 | 634 | 623 | 632 | 634 | 629 |
| Veal | 125 | 128 | 128 | 124 | 124 | 125 | 132 | 136 | 133 | 134 |
| Lamb and mutton | 54 | 55 | 54 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 56 | 58 | 58 | 57 |
| Pork | 171 | 172 | 172 | 175 | 174 | 174 | 172 | 172 | 172 | 172 |
| Production: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 2,004 | 5,775 | 1,966 | 1,839 | 1,876 | 5,681 | 1,830 | 1,785 | 1,864 | 5,479 |
| Veal | 32 | 92 | 33 | 32 | 32 | 97 | 33 | 32 | 34 | 99 |
| Lamb and mutton | 32 | 91 | 31 | 28 | 30 | 89 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 96 |
| Pork | 1,236 | 3,552 | 1,347 | 1,421 | 1,301 | 4,069 | 1,194 | 1,129 | 1,301 | 3,624 |
| | | | | | 1,000 head | | | | | |
| COMMERCIAL:[1] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Slaughter: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 3,313 | 9,548 | 3,278 | 3,079 | 3,161 | 9,518 | 3,107 | 2,970 | 3,090 | 9,168 |
| Calves | 283 | 805 | 290 | 294 | 284 | 868 | 277 | 255 | 285 | 817 |
| Sheep and Lambs | 617 | 1,740 | 601 | 528 | 551 | 1,680 | 553 | 561 | 600 | 1,715 |
| Hogs | 7,500 | 21,373 | 8,086 | 8,436 | 7,812 | 24,334 | 7,188 | 6,812 | 7,802 | 21,802 |
| | | | | | Million lbs | | | | | |
| Production: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 2,090 | 6,015 | 2,062 | 1,935 | 1,965 | 5,962 | 1,913 | 1,858 | 1,937 | 5,708 |
| Veal | 38 | 110 | 41 | 39 | 37 | 117 | 39 | 36 | 40 | 115 |
| Lamb and mutton | 33 | 94 | 32 | 29 | 30 | 91 | 31 | 32 | 35 | 98 |
| Pork | 1,273 | 3,657 | 1,388 | 1,468 | 1,350 | 4,206 | 1,234 | 1,165 | 1,338 | 3,737 |
| | | | | | Million lbs | | | | | |
| COLD STORAGE STOCKS[1] END OF QUARTER:[2, 3] | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 268 | 268 | 278 | 316 | 325 | 325 | 338 | 332 | 327 | 327 |
| Veal | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Lamb and mutton | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Pork | 210 | 210 | 240 | 295 | 301 | 301 | 295 | 312 | 348 | 348 |
| Total meat | 496 | 496 | 536 | 630 | 646 | 646 | 652 | 663 | 693 | 693 |

[1]Federally inspected and other commercial. [2]Beginning January 1977, excludes beef and pork stocks in cooler. [3]Stock levels end of quarter or month. * 1983 revisions.

## Table 52—Selected foreign trade, by months

| Item | 1983 | | | | | | | 1984 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. |
| | *Million lbs* | | | | | | | | | |
| Imports (carcass weight): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 166.66 | 187.50 | 184.55 | 166.99 | 162.40 | 104.78 | 80.29 | 168.18 | 151.62 | |
| Veal | 1.33 | .66 | .48 | 1.30 | 1.46 | .67 | .25 | 4.31 | 2.61 | |
| Pork | 57.72 | 58.65 | 54.39 | 56.04 | 65.25 | 55.47 | 56.50 | 67.66 | 64.52 | |
| Lamb and mutton | 2.07 | 2.35 | 1.08 | 2.56 | .70 | 1.15 | .71 | .85 | .44 | |
| Exports (carcass weight): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 19.53 | 19.45 | 25.57 | 26.60 | 28.94 | 26.62 | 16.15 | 26.58 | 26.96 | 36.50 |
| Veal | .44 | .47 | .33 | .30 | .38 | .37 | .10 | .24 | .43 | .46 |
| Pork | 20.45 | 14.21 | 13.46 | 14.81 | 16.89 | 23.31 | 20.86 | 16.97 | 14.83 | 17.23 |
| Lamb and mutton | .15 | .07 | .11 | .06 | .16 | .15 | .14 | .10 | .21 | .14 |
| Shipments (carcass weight): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | 2.62 | 3.04 | 2.77 | 3.33 | 3.16 | 3.83 | 3.48 | 2.98 | | |
| Veal | .04 | .17 | .12 | .13 | .05 | .13 | .14 | .14 | | |
| Pork | 10.35 | 10.15 | 6.88 | 10.75 | 11.52 | 15.57 | 20.73 | 10.00 | | |
| Lamb and mutton | .31 | .15 | .11 | .08 | .13 | .09 | .07 | .18 | | |
| | *Number* | | | | | | | | | |
| Live animal imports: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 154,117 | 74,665 | 81,733 | 59,418 | 28,514 | 36,636 | 130,014 | 128,019 | 116,603 | |
| Hogs | 32,905 | 30,241 | 42,253 | 37,818 | 30,374 | 31,200 | 32,161 | 92,407 | 87,962 | |
| Sheep and lambs | 16 | 2,443 | 3,070 | 693 | 65 | 278 | 43 | 444 | 490 | |
| Live animal exports: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cattle | 5,519 | 3,719 | 4,910 | 4,428 | 3,818 | 7,058 | 5,966 | 3,561 | 3,012 | 2,218 |
| Hogs | 2,897 | 978 | 1,271 | 877 | 1,837 | 1,545 | 1,265 | 859 | 1,147 | 625 |
| Sheep and lambs | 19,182 | 25,377 | 26,101 | 18,629 | 13,320 | 28,416 | 21,916 | 25,770 | 15,075 | 24,208 |

## Table 53—U.S. imports of cattle from specified countries, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, 1979-83

| Year | 700 pounds and over | | | | Under 200 pounds | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Canada | Mexico | Other | Total | Canada | Mexico | Other | Total |
| | *Head* | | | | | | | |
| 1979 | 136,397 | 1,045 | 25 | 137,467 | 144,170 | 1,963 | 0 | 146,133 |
| 1980 | 148,489 | 107 | 30 | 148,626 | 131,498 | 4,439 | 0 | 135,937 |
| 1981 | 130,160 | 103 | 81 | 130,344 | 144,769 | 884 | 0 | 145,653 |
| 1982 | 223,275 | 96 | 51 | 223,422 | 158,231 | 1,375 | 0 | 159,606 |
| 1983[1] | 221,066 | 902 | 14 | 221,982 | 87,587 | 977 | 0 | 88,564 |
| | 200 to 699 pounds | | | | Total | | | |
| | Canada | Mexico | Other | Total | Canada | Mexico | Other | Total |
| 1979 | 53,729 | 376,941 | 56 | 430,726 | 334,296 | 379,949 | 81 | 714,326 |
| 1980 | 54,570 | 327,695 | 60 | 382,325 | 334,557 | 332,241 | 90 | 666,888 |
| 1981 | 50,012 | 320,040 | 4 | 370,056 | 324,941 | 321,027 | 85 | 646,053 |
| 1982 | 97,307 | 508,206 | 255 | 605,768 | 478,813 | 509,677 | 306 | 988,796 |
| 1983[1] | 27,992 | 559,665 | 12 | 587,669 | 336,645 | 561,544 | 26 | 898,215 |

[1]Preliminary.

**Table 54—Number of cattle, sheep, and hogs imported, United States, 1979 to date**

| Year | Cattle | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 700 pounds and over | | | Under 700 pounds | | |
| | Cows for dairy purposes | Other | Total | Under 200 pounds | 200 to 699 pounds | Total |
| | *Head* | | | | | |
| 1979 | 6,628 | 137,467 | 144,095 | 146,133 | 430,726 | 576,859 |
| 1980 | 5,378 | 148,626 | 154,004 | 135,937 | 382,325 | 518,262 |
| 1981 | 4,951 | 130,344 | 135,295 | 145,653 | 370,056 | 515,709 |
| 1982 | 7,957 | 223,422 | 231,379 | 159,606 | 605,768 | 765,374 |
| 1983[2] | 13,100 | 221,982 | 235,082 | 88,564 | 587,669 | 676,233 |

| Year | Dutiable cattle | Breeding cattle[1] | Total cattle | Sheep and lambs | Hogs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Head* | | | | |
| 1979 | 720,954 | 11,360 | 732,314 | 9,478 | 136,556 |
| 1980 | 672,266 | 8,503 | 680,769 | 20,518 | 247,288 |
| 1981 | 651,004 | 8,193 | 659,197 | 6,860 | 145,695 |
| 1982 | 996,753 | 7,754 | 1,004,507 | 9,286 | 294,937 |
| 1983[2] | 911,315 | 9,492 | 920,807 | 7,128 | 447,465 |

[1]Imports not subject to duty. [2]Preliminary.

# Economic Impacts of the Avian Influenza Outbreak

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**Abstract**: An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza occurred in Pennsylvania in November 1983. An eradication program was begun almost immediately, and by mid-April 1984, 12.6 million head of poultry had been depopulated. The greatest impact was on the egg industry, where producers already had decreased layer numbers in response to poor returns.

**Keywords**: Poultry, avian influenza, poultry prices, egg prices, disease eradication.

### *Economic Setting*

Two major factors, the reduction in flocks due to poor returns and avian influenza, combined in second-half 1983 to demonstrate just how sensitive poultry and egg markets can be to changes in supply or demand. Avian influenza (AI), hitting in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia, proved the most dramatic and publicized event to rock the poultry industry since the California Newcastle outbreak 13 years ago. Avian influenza, as devastating as it was, would not have caused so much reaction had it not hit just as the major cutbacks in laying flocks began taking effect. Poor returns in 1982 and 1983 and prospects for high feed costs caused egg producers to reduce hen numbers in second-quarter 1983, but egg production did not drop immediately because the rate of lay temporarily increased. However, as egg output began declining, the impact of AI reduced production further. It is important to keep in mind the interaction of the previous cutbacks, the disease, and the eradication program when assessing the impact of avian influenza.

### *Eggs*

The outbreak of a highly pathogenic strain of AI began in November, as the December issue of this report was being prepared. That issue projected egg output for 1983 at nearly 3 percent below 1982, due to a smaller laying flock (table 1). Pullets hatched were down 9 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers on December 1,

1983, totaled 278.2 million, down 10.8 million from December 1, 1982. First-half 1984 egg production was projected to be 1 to 3 percent below a year earlier.

In October, egg breakers had been bidding for eggs to meet current orders, and New York prices for cartoned Grade A large eggs rose to 80.2 cents, up from 69.5 cents a year earlier. Seasonal demand was strong for eggs for the holiday trade. In light of these conditions, buyers responded immediately to the news of the AI-induced cutback in production. Egg prices rose one-third above a year earlier in November and increased by one-half in December, breaking the $1-per-dozen barrier at wholesale.

Egg producers responded to the changing situation almost as rapidly as did the buyers. Producers kept old hens in production that normally would have gone to market. Only 11.3 million mature fowl were slaughtered in November 1983 and 12.2 million in December. This was a 2-month drop of 11.1 million from a year earlier when slaughter was 15.4 million in November and 19.1 million in December. Although fewer hens were expected to come to market, the sudden drop in hen slaughter meant that by holding older hens, egg producers more than offset the number depopulated because of AI.

The dramatic decline in mature fowl slaughter also disrupted the fowl market, and meant that some processors were unable to meet commitments for fowl meat. Some were forced to substitute young chicken (and to some extent, turkey) for fowl. This was especially the case in the Mid-Atlantic area, which draws heavily upon Pennsylvania as a source of fowl. The farm price for live hens more than doubled, increasing from 9 cents to 25 cents per pound. This market showed the largest percentage increase in price due to AI and the subsequent short-run adjustments. It likely will also experience rapid price drops when the backlog of older hens comes to market, especially if the movement is bunched.

Overall, the combination of planned reduction in hen numbers, AI-induced depopulation and the very quick response of holding back old hens caused egg production to drop below year-earlier levels by 4.1 percent in December, 3.8 percent in January, and 3.9 percent in February (28-day basis).

At the outbreak of AI, the October 1983-March 1984 egg supply was being projected at 3 to 4 percent below a year earlier and prices about 15 to 25 percent higher. The combination of factors caused the actual supply to fall within the projected range, but prices to rise as much as 50 percent.

Considering the offsetting adjustments, the net reduction in U.S. egg production because of AI was no more than 1 percent for any month. Normally, a 1-percent drop in egg production would lead to a price increase of 3 to 4 percent. However, this decrease was not a normal one, and the price impact was greater. The location and timing of the AI outbreak, following the already planned cutback

**Table 1—Egg Production, layer inventory, and poultry federally inspected for slaughter**

| Month | Egg production | Layer inventory first of month | Federally inspected slaughter | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Mature chickens | Young chickens | Turkeys |
| | *Millions* | | *Thousands* | | |
| Jan. 1982 | 5,975 | — | 17,207 | 315,510 | 7,885 |
| Feb. | 5,333 | — | 15,573 | 310,082 | 7,804 |
| Mar. | — | 288,505 | 18,477 | 357,859 | 10,693 |
| Apr. | — | — | 20,027 | 341,112 | 9,767 |
| May | — | — | 16,565 | 338,337 | 10,888 |
| June | — | 282,742 | 17,928 | 367,476 | 14,306 |
| July | — | — | 14,249 | 352,584 | 15,310 |
| Aug. | — | — | 17,024 | 360,424 | 17,879 |
| Sept. | — | 281,776 | 15,494 | 351,952 | 17,799 |
| Oct. | — | — | 14,736 | 336,440 | 17,758 |
| Nov. | — | — | 15,433 | 312,009 | 18,546 |
| Dec. | 6,012 | 288,968 | 19,124 | 324,325 | 11,725 |
| Jan. 1983 | 5,914 | 285,607 | 18,963 | 340,252 | 8,532 |
| Feb. | 5,353 | 283,308 | 14,875 | 313,680 | 8,477 |
| Mar. | 5,928 | 280,501 | 19,070 | 368,250 | 11,979 |
| Apr. | 5,622 | 276,921 | 17,498 | 345,740 | 10,563 |
| May | 5,710 | 272,632 | 13,519 | 364,275 | 12,062 |
| June | 5,530 | 271,721 | 14,798 | 373,732 | 15,201 |
| July | 5,654 | 269,986 | 13,420 | 332,128 | 14,927 |
| Aug. | 5,635 | 270,179 | 14,637 | 380,313 | 18,396 |
| Sept. | 5,501 | 271,290 | 14,319 | 349,947 | 17,444 |
| Oct. | 5,683 | 272,058 | 13,266 | 341,530 | 18,102 |
| Nov. | 5,566 | 276,009 | 11,263 | 309,773 | 17,931 |
| Dec. | 5,767 | 278,223 | 12,227 | 313,208 | 11,329 |
| Jan. 1984 | 5,689 | 277,057 | 13,048 | 40,242 | 8,138 |
| Feb. | 5,328 | 276,031 | 12,943 | 323,502 | 8,898 |
| Mar. | | 276,966 | 14,136 | 348,611 | 9,937 |
| Apr. | | | | | |

— Not surveyed on monthly basis during these months.

**Table 2—Poultry depopulation comparisons, through April 16, 1984**

| Month | Layers depopulated[1] | As percent of | | Young chickens depopulated | | Turkeys depopulated | | Depopulated | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Head | Inventory | FI Slaughter[2] | Head | As a percent of FI slaughter | Head | As a percent of FI slaughter | Other head | Total head |
| Nov. 1983 | 1,888,160 | 0.68 | 16.76 | 1,508,571 | 0.49 | 0 | 0 | 15,942 | 3,412,673 |
| Dec. 1983 | 3,030,360 | 1.09 | 24.78 | 1,705,528 | 0.54 | 54,029 | 0.48 | 18,601 | 4,808,518 |
| Jan. 1984 | 1,605,219 | 0.58 | 12.30 | 343,725 | 0.10 | 37,041 | 0.46 | 1,675 | 1,987,660 |
| Feb. 1984 | 1,035,510 | 0.38 | 8.00 | 97,422 | 0.03 | 133,562 | 1.50 | 105 | 1,266,599 |
| Mar. 1984 | 196,549 | 0.07 | 1.39 | 163,415 | 0.05 | 521,679 | 5.25 | 0 | 881,643 |
| Apr. 1984 | 31,170 | | | 107,424 | | 111,933 | | 7 | 250,534 |
| Total to 4/16 | 7,786,968 | | | 3,926,085 | | 858,244 | | 36,330 | 12,607,627 |

[1]Includes layers, pullets, breeders. [2]Based upon FI slaughter of mature chickens.

**Table 3—Wholesale prices for eggs, broilers, and turkeys**

| Month | Eggs Grade A large 14-city | Broilers, 12-city | Young turkeys, 3-city |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Cents/dozen* | *Cents/pound* | |
| Jan. 1983 | 64.2 | *43.4 | 56.5 |
| Feb. | 65.3 | *45.2 | 57.1 |
| Mar. | 69.7 | *41.9 | 55.9 |
| Apr. | 67.9 | *40.9 | 54.8 |
| May | 70.9 | 46.5 | 58.6 |
| June | 68.7 | 49.1 | 62.3 |
| July | 70.1 | 52.8 | 61.4 |
| Aug. | 76.9 | 54.2 | 62.1 |
| Sept. | 79.0 | 54.5 | 67.2 |
| Oct. | 81.3 | 50.4 | 68.4 |
| Nov. | 90.6 | 56.8 | 70.2 |
| Dec. | 100.1 | 57.1 | 75.9 |
| Jan. 1984 | 112.4 | 62.1 | 73.4 |
| Feb. | 104.2 | 61.2 | 67.9 |
| Mar. | 92.5 | 62.0 | 69.7 |

* 9-city average was discontinued and replaced by composite 12-city average in May.

in egg output, caused considerable market disruption and uncertainty. The abrupt reduction in supplies from Pennsylvania (the fourth largest egg producing State, situated next to major East Coast consuming cities) occurred just as we entered the holiday baking season with its greater demand for eggs.

### *Broilers*

Although the number of broilers depopulated because of AI has been small compared with normal slaughter (table 2), there has been a price response. During November and December, only 3.2 million broilers were depopulated, but federally inspected slaughter was 13.4 million birds below those 2 months in 1983, a drop of 2.1 percent. Depopulation because of AI accounted for about one-fourth of the drop. The main reduction again was due to cutbacks by producers, who were reacting to poor returns in 1982 and early 1983 as well as expectations of higher feed costs and large supplies of red meat in second-half 1983, and early 1984.

Broilers were not in short supply, even during the peak of the AI-induced depopulation. Yet wholesale prices (12-city average) rose about one-third over the 42-cent level of a year earlier, when the market was badly depressed because of large supplies (table 3). If one prorates the impact, AI-induced depopulation would account for less than 1 cent of the price rise. However, through March, the impact of AI was probably a 2- to-3 cent increase in wholesale broiler prices.

The short growout period (7 weeks) for broilers suggests that their exposure potential to AI is not as great as for the laying flock. However, this also means that when AI strikes a broiler operation, an entire cycle of production is lost, without as much chance for offsetting the loss as in the egg production sector.

### *Turkeys*

The impact of AI upon the turkey market may be more drawn out than for eggs or broilers. The main marketing period for turkeys was mostly past when the outbreak occurred. Only 54,029 turkeys were depopulated during November-December, but the number increased to three-quarters of a million depopulated by the end of March, and most of these were in Virginia. A sizeable number of those destroyed have been turkey breeding flocks. This may be a factor behind the recent drop in turkey placements and eggs set—eggs may be less available. If so, this increases the uncertainty regarding supplies during the summer and fall marketing periods.

### *Other Impacts*

Traditionally, economic impacts are measured mostly as changes in price and quantity of products. However, on a local basis, the impact of a disease outbreak such as AI may take many forms. For example, layer operations were most likely to be affected in Pennsylvania, while in Virginia the problem was mostly with turkeys. Individual producers fare quite differently. A producer with several growers may have only a small part of his flocks infected while another may lose a high portion of his birds. Individual growers may be hardest hit as they generally have all their birds at a single location, and must close down for a period following flock depopulation. During this period, income stops completely, and expenses for cleanup increase.

Besides losing part of its local sales, a hatchery selling chicks, poults, or eggs beyond the local area loses that part of its market when quarantined. Feed mills, processing plants, and other suppliers lose part of their volume, forcing unit costs up and incomes down. There are extra cleanup and disinfecting costs facing all sec-

tors. Normal movements through market channels are badly disrupted. Losses are most severe to producers with high payment obligations, such as for facilities. Cash flow obligations become very difficult to meet at a time when additional expenses are being incurred and incomes have been curtailed.

Without the eradication program the impacts of AI would have been much greater than they were. Depopulation and cleanup reduced the source of infection and the quarantine action reduced the potential for exposure of other flocks and other areas. Without these actions, the disease likely would have been widespread by this time, losses would have been severe, and consumers would be paying substantially higher prices for eggs, poultry, and for other meats now, and possibly well into the future.

### *Indemnities and Costs*

Through the emergency program, USDA has paid indemnities to producers for birds, eggs, feed, and other materials that had to be destroyed. Indemnity values have been based upon the cost of producing or purchasing birds. These values include total costs to both contractor-owners and contract growers. It is assumed that the same costs would apply to an independent producer. Indemnity values do not include foregone or lost profits.

Costs of the eradication program to date are summarized in table 4. Indemnity payments are made directly to producers. These payments and part of the other costs as well, help offset some of the economic losses in the stricken community.

**Table 4—Government costs of avian influenza eradication program, Nov. 1983 through April 16, 1984[1]**

| Cost items | Dollars | |
|---|---|---|
| Indemnity payments | | |
| Poultry depopulated | 25,987,890 | |
| Eggs destroyed | 1,026,645 | |
| Feed destroyed | 758,839 | |
| Materials destroyed | 235,294 | |
| Total indemnities | | 28,008,668 |
| Other costs[2] | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 6,153,520 | |
| Travel | 2,013,759 | |
| Transportation | 69,861 | |
| Rent, communication, utilities | 283,298 | |
| Other services, supplies, eqpt. | 3,846,093 | |
| Total other | | 12,366,531 |
| Total costs | | 40,375,199 |

[1]Does not include the retroactive increase in indemnity rates which were: 33 percent for layers; 16.5 percent for pullets; 3 percent for broilers; 4.9 percent for turkeys. Broiler breeders were also increased.
[2]Preliminary.

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